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INSIDE

ASIA



Authorities hunting for a missing Malaysia Airlines jetliner expand their search.

► PAGE 15

WORLD



Russia is drafting counterproposals to a U.S. plan for the Ukraine crisis.

► PAGE 16

LIFE & STYLE



A baby abandoned at Burger King is now grown up and looking for her mom.

► PAGE 19



Fitial wants to come back

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Former governor Benigno R. Fitial wants to return to the CNMI from the Philippines to face the criminal charges filed against him, saying he has no desire to become a fugitive.

» **Ex-governor says he has no desire to become a fugitive**

Fitial filed with the Superior Court on Friday—through attorney Stephen Nutting—a declaration that he executed in Taguig, Global City, Philippines dated Feb. 27, 2014.

"I have no desire to become a fugitive; forever unable to see the family and friends I have acquired throughout my

lifetime," the 68-year-old former governor said.

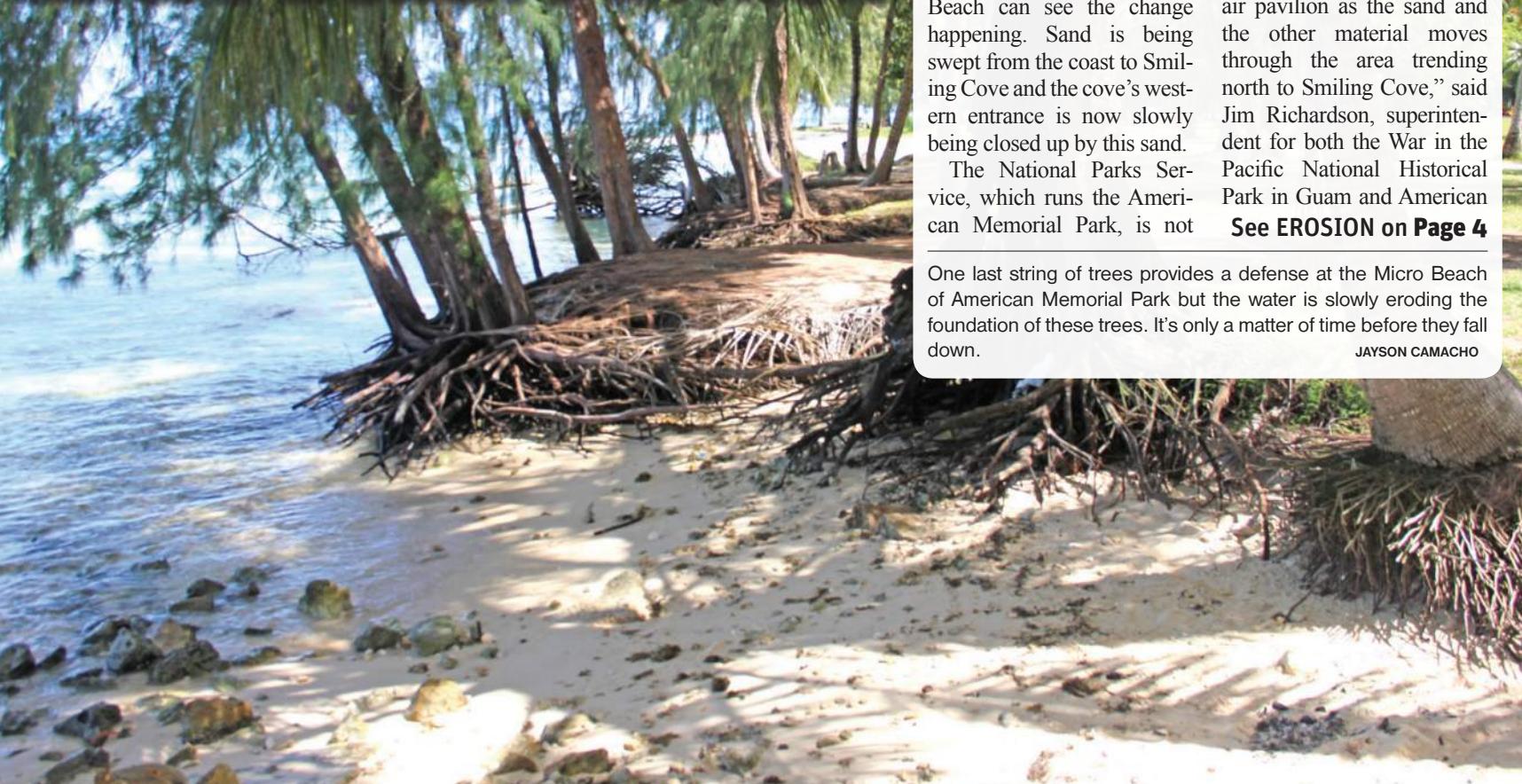
Fitial disclosed that near the end of 2013, his health had improved to the point where it appeared that he was able to travel and that he was excited to return to his home on Saipan.

See FITIAL on Page 4

RELATED NEWS

» **'Let Fitial face charges'**
PAGE 3

Erosion threatens Micro Beach Pavilion



By JAYSON CAMACHO
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REPORTER

Micro Beach is still eroding like nobody's business.

Casual visitors to Micro Beach can see the change happening. Sand is being swept from the coast to Smiling Cove and the cove's western entrance is now slowly being closed up by this sand.

The National Parks Service, which runs the American Memorial Park, is not

unaware of the problem.

"The beach is eroding, with shoreline erosion undermining trees, claiming a beachside sidewalk, and threatening a popular open air pavilion as the sand and the other material moves through the area trending north to Smiling Cove," said Jim Richardson, superintendent for both the War in the Pacific National Historical Park in Guam and American

See EROSION on Page 4

One last string of trees provides a defense at the Micro Beach of American Memorial Park but the water is slowly eroding the foundation of these trees. It's only a matter of time before they fall down.

JAYSON CAMACHO

New PSS survey shows shift in career goals

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

It used to be that majority of high school graduates of public schools want to enter the military or become policemen—careers that fall into the category of protective service. This time, many want to go into education and re-

lated training, as shown in the latest survey held among eighth to 12th graders.

The survey, called Kuder Career Interest Assessment, showed a significant shift in the career goals of Public School System students after they graduate from high school.

See PSS on Page 4

GOP picks Reyes as Saipan mayor bet

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The CNMI Republican Party announced last night that its Saipan mayoralty candidate is Joe Agulto Reyes, confirming weeks of speculation that incumbent Saipan Mayor Donald Flores will no longer be running under the GOP. Flores, who ran under the Republican Party in 2009, has been consulting with family and supporters on the matter for

weeks now.

Ivan Blanco, chairman of the GOP Central Committee's public relations team, also said last night that the GOP's official Precinct 2 candidates are incumbents House floor leader Ralph Demapan and Rep. John Paul Sablan. Both previously ran under the Covenant Party, which merged with the GOP last year.

"Remaining slates will be announced later this week," Blanco said.

See GOP on Page 4

Speaker: Feds did not permit mining of NMI seafloor deposits. PAGE 2
Cangco gets 18-month probation for lying to FBI. PAGE 5

Local

Speaker: Feds did not permit mining of NMI seafloor deposits

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

House Speaker Joseph Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan) said yesterday that the U.S. Department of the Interior assured him that no commercial companies have been issued licenses to mine the CNMI seafloor, although the federal agency said mineral deposits such as gold and iron-manganese nodules do, or are likely to occur, within the CNMI's exclusive economic zones.

Deleon Guerrero was able to pose questions to Interior officials on the reported existence

of seafloor minerals during his recent trip to Washington, D.C. to meet with federal officials on a host of issues.

"The Interior said no licenses were issued to any commercial companies," the speaker told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday. "They cited the Outer Continental Shelf Act or OSCA, under which the Interior is the agency authorized to grant licenses for seabed mining in coastal states, but not to U.S. territories such as the CNMI."

Deleon Guerrero said Interior cited a U.S. Geological Survey report on marine mineral resources of the Pacific islands.

The USGS report said mineral deposits that do, or are likely to occur within CNMI exclusive economic zones include "cobalt-rich iron-manganese crusts, iron-manganese nodules, phosphorite deposits, epithermal gold deposits, hydrothermal manganese and iron oxide deposits, hydrothermal manganese and iron oxide deposits, hydrothermal polymetallic sulfides, insular and lagoonal phosphorite deposits, shallow-water sand and gravel deposits, and shallow- and deep-water precious coral."

Deleon Guerrero earlier got hold of online reports citing

international seafloor mining companies' interests in mining multimillion worth of high-grade hydrothermal deposits rich in copper, zinc, and lead with a high gold and silver content, as well as large oil and natural gas reserves within CNMI area.

The online publications stated that two seafloor mining companies—Canada-based Nautilus Minerals and Australia-based Neptune Minerals—have applied for mining exploration licenses in the CNMI.

But Deleon Guerrero said no licenses were granted to these firms, based on information

from the Interior.

Now that the CNMI has control over many of its submerged lands, the speaker believes the CNMI has the authority to issue mining licenses for minerals within 3-mile submerged lands.

Another issue that Interior officials discussed with the speaker is that the Interior secretary is supposed to convey to the CNMI all rights, titles, and interests of the United States in deposits of oil, gas, and other minerals in the submerged lands within a certain period.

The speaker, citing Interior officials, said that the 60-day period ends later this week,

starting from Jan. 15 when President Barack Obama signed a proclamation temporarily withholding the transfer to the CNMI of submerged lands around five islands that are either part of a national marine monument or under lease to the U.S. military.

In January, Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) asked Interior Secretary Sally Jewell to take action on the transfer of oil, gas, and other mineral rights to the CNMI now that the transfer of submerged lands in the CNMI from the federal government to the Commonwealth has begun.

Goat Island open for hunting

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Tinian Mayor Ramon Dela Cruz announced yesterday that Aguiguan or Goat Island will be open for goat hunting from April 1 to May 15, within days after the Senate approved revising CNMI hunting laws to not only double the hunting season for certain animals in a year but also to raise the hunting license fees.

Individuals interested in hunting on Aguiguan are required to apply for and be granted a hunting license at the Division of Fish and Wildlife office at the Department of Lands and Natural Resources on Tinian.

"The restrictions for hunting goats are designed to help wean the herd properly," the mayor's office said.

The Aguiguan goat hunting license fee for residents is \$5, while for nonresidents, \$20.

Only two types of weapons can be used: a .22 rifle, or a .22 Magnum.

Hunting bag limit is 10 goats per season, of which not more than five may be females.

The Tinian mayor said individuals who did not submit their report cards for the two previous hunting seasons will not be issued licenses.

"Fish and Wildlife officers on Tinian, Aguiguan, and Saipan will be guarding against poachers and will be conducting inspection before departure and arrival of all vessels. For further information, please call 433-1400 or 1401," Dela Cruz added.

The goats on Aguiguan are the remnants of a herd that was imported during the Japanese administration to provide milk and cheese for the Okinawan farmers who lived there, CNMI historian and the Tinian mayor's chief of staff Don Farrell said.

There are no natural predators of goats on Aguiguan.

Farrell said the Tinian mayor is working with DFW to produce a goat population study designed to control the goat population, eradicate other invasive

species, protect and promote threatened and endangered species, and begin the reforestation of the island to its natural limestone forest eco-system.

Hunting law changes

Meanwhile, the Senate passed last week by a vote of 9-0 Sen. Jovita Taimanao's (Ind-Rota) bill amending CNMI hunting laws. Senate Bill 18-46, Senate Draft 3 or the Hunting Act of 2014 is now up for House action.

Under the bill, the hunting season for Sambar deer or *Cervus unicolor* on Rota will be both from Feb. 14 to April 14, and from Sept. 15 to Nov. 15 each year. Hunting of female Sambar deer is prohibited.

The Sambar deer hunting license fee for CNMI residents is \$50 for each season for a bag limit of two per person, while the license fee for nonresidents for each season is \$300.

Coconut crab or *Birgus latro* hunting is from Feb. 14 to April 14 as well as from Sept. 15 to Nov. 15 of each year, under Taimanao's bill. The license fee is \$30 for CNMI residents, and \$300 for nonresidents, all for a bag limit of five and a maximum of 10 coconut crabs per person each hunting season.

The bill also proposes an April 15 to May 31 and Oct. 1 to Nov. 30 hunting seasons for the Philippine turtle dove or *Streptopelia bitorquata*. The proposed license fee is \$20 for CNMI residents and \$100 for nonresidents, for a bag limit of five and a maximum of 20 for each person per season.

Taimanao's bill also proposes an April 1 to June 30 and Sept. 1 to Dec. 31 hunting season for land crabs or *Cardisoma hirtipes* and *Cardisoma carnifex*.

The proposed license fee for hunting land crabs is \$20 for CNMI residents and \$100 for nonresidents, both with no bag or number limit each season.

The hunting seasons for wild goat, wild pig, and cow, under the bill, shall be open all year, with \$25 license fee for CNMI residents and \$100 for nonresidents.

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'Let Fitial face charges'

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Some House of Representatives members who voted to impeach former governor Benigno R. Fitial in 2012 and 2013 welcomed the news yesterday that Fitial is willing to come back to face the criminal charges against him, after months of what lawmakers described as his "flagrant disregard of the judicial process."

House vice speaker Frank Dela Cruz (Ind-Saipan), main author of the Fitial extradition resolution, said yesterday the resolution's intent "was really so that the former governor can come back to face the charges against him."

"I'm glad that he is willing to come back on his own free will. I'm glad he made this decision," Dela Cruz said.

Fitial's counsel Stephen Nutting filed a motion requesting the Superior Court to quash the arrest warrant that the court issued against him.

Gov. Eloy S. Inos earlier told reporters he is willing to request the federal government to extradite Fitial—if and when the CNMI Office of the Attorney General recommends pursuing the former governor.

As of yesterday, the governor has yet to receive any such recommendation from the OAG.

House Speaker Joseph Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan), main author of two impeachment resolutions against Fitial, noted yesterday that this is only the first time that Fitial communicated with the courts or the CNMI government.

"He's never bothered to acknowledge the court process for several months. Whether he's there in the Philippines for legitimate reasons or not, he has not communicated that to the courts. That, to me, is a flagrant disregard of our judicial process, of our courts," Deleon Guerrero told *Saipan Tribune* in an interview.

This comes several months after the court issued an arrest warrant against Fitial and long after he was charged with criminal acts in connection with the trial of his former attorney gen-

Alleged 'ice' suppliers plead not guilty

Xing Bo Fang and Yu Hua Wang, the alleged leader and second in command respectively of a group of methamphetamine or "ice" suppliers on Saipan, have pleaded not guilty.

At an arraignment on Monday in federal court, Fang and Wang pleaded not guilty to an indictment charging them with conspiracy to distribute 50 grams or more of methamphetamine and distribution of 50 grams or more of methamphetamine.

Wang also pleaded not guilty to distribution of methamphetamine.

Attorneys David Banes and Robert Torres served as court-appointed counsels respectively

eral Edward T. Buckingham.

Fitial filed a declaration executed in Taguig, Metro Manila, Philippines dated Feb. 27. That was about a week after Buckingham was found guilty of all public corruption charges except one and sentenced to 3.5 years in prison, all suspended.

Some lawmakers also noted the timing of Fitial's actions.

"[Fitial] knows he might be forced to come back in an embarrassing manner if he is extradited," the speaker said.

Fitial, through his attorney, said he wants to return to the CNMI from the Philippines to face the criminal charges filed against him as he has no desire to become a fugitive. Fitial cited his own medical condition and that of his father-in-law's health for not being able to return to the CNMI. Fitial has been staying in the Philippines, his wife's home country.

Until recently, the CNMI court or the government has never heard from Fitial, since the day he left on Feb. 21, 2013, a day after his resignation just days before the start of his impeachment trial at the Senate.

Rep. Janet Maratita (Ind-Saipan) said yesterday "if there's assurance of [Fitial's] appearance and willingness to come back to the CNMI at his cost, then I think he should be given that opportunity."

"It's a saving for our government as we do not have to take the extradition process. After all, he is also entitled to due process," Maratita added.

Some lawmakers had previously said that an international extradition process is costly.

Rep. Ray Tebuteb (Ind-Saipan) separately said it's now up to the courts to decide on Fitial's request to quash the arrest warrant against him.

"The Legislature has no business, either thoughts or opinions expressed, in quashing court orders. Let it be. That's the third branch of our republican form of government's role and responsibility," he said.

Rep. Antonio Benavente (Ind-Saipan) said that Fitial's

intent to return is "good," but he said the court order is beyond the Legislature's control.

"So let him come and face whatever his charges he has coming to him," he added.

Rep. Edmund Villagomez (Cov-Saipan) said he thinks it is the right thing for him [Fitial] to do—warrant or no warrant."

The Office of the Public Auditor filed seven criminal charges against Fitial for his role in shielding Buckingham from being served with penal summons in August 2012.

These include conspiracy to commit theft of services, conspiracy to commit obstructing justice, theft of services, misconduct in public office, and

obstructing justice.

Buckingham, during his trial early this year, said it was Fitial's idea to have Buckingham escorted around the time he was being served a penal summons.

Fitial is the first governor in the CNMI or any U.S. territory to be impeached by a House of Representatives. He is also so far the only CNMI governor to resign, and that was days before the Senate was to conduct his impeachment trial to determine

whether he should be removed from office or not.

Historian Don Farrell earlier said he believes that Fitial's "rise and fall" will have "a lasting effect on CNMI politics and government" for generations to come.

"Despite all the good things that Governor Fitial may have done during his rise to power, it

was not enough to absolve him of the perception of wrongdoing that pervaded his authoritarian style of governing," the historian added.

Fitial's impeachment, resignation, and replacement by his former lieutenant governor are covered in the last chapter of Farrell's new NMI history book.

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PSS**From Page 1**

Records obtained by *Saipan Tribune* show that among the 3,851 students surveyed on Dec. 13 last year, 893 students, or 23 percent of the respondents, ranked education and training as their top career choice.

The second most popular career choice was "human services" which yielded 19 percent, or 749 students.

The third top career choice is in "Arts, Audio-Video Technology and Communications" with 567 students, or 15 percent of survey respondents.

"Health Science" came fourth, garnering 505 respon-

dents or 13 percent. In fifth place is "Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics" with 298 students, or 8 percent of respondents.

"Finance," which used to be among the top career choices, had 238 students showing interest in pursuing it as a career option, or just 6 percent of respondents.

Also notable in the results is the sudden shift on "Information Technology" and "Law, Public Safety, Corrections and Security" which tied at seventh and eighth, with only 158 students showing interest in "IT" and 158 in "Law and Public Safety."

It will be recalled that an earlier survey conducted by PSS among 2,956 respondents showed 474

respondents wanting to be in "Protective Services," which includes fields such as police and investigation agents.

Another notable result in the latest survey is in the area of "Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources," which generated only 2 percent, or 77 students, while "Hospitality and Tourism" garnered only 1 percent of respondents.

Meanwhile, "Architecture and Construction," "Business Management and Administration," "Marketing," and "Transportation, Distribution, and Logistics" all obtained between 27 and 55 students.

This latest survey was administered on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota high schools where stu-

dents were given questionnaires that took them less than 10 minutes to complete.

Of the 3,851 respondents, 2,002 are males and 1,849 are females.

According to PSS, the Kuder Career Interest Assessment is the first and by far the most critical step in effective career exploration. It provides both the school and the students opportunities to explore what the "students like to do."

COE pleased

Education Commissioner Dr. Rita A. Sablan said yesterday that PSS is very pleased with the outcome of the latest survey, which indicated that many high school and graduating stu-

dents are interested in pursuing careers in "education and training services." That may include becoming teachers, counselors, school administrators, trainers, and other related fields.

"I am really pleased with the result of the latest survey because it indicates that many students are now interested in the education profession and looking at teaching as a career," Sablan told *Saipan Tribune*.

According to her, "education" has always been among the five top choices of students in career surveys. However, seeing this as the most selected career by students is a big thing for PSS, she added.

When asked about the possible factors that contributed to

this shift in the career goals of students, Sablan cited the potential positive influence of educators, the job market in terms of availability, the pay and benefit aspect given to educators, the 190-day contract, among others.

To ensure that PSS is ready to sustain the job market for potential educators in the CNMI, Sablan said that PSS will continue to partner with the Northern Marianas College and come up with an agreement on courses necessary for public schools.

Sablan also revealed the system's plan to expand the existing "Teacher Academy" in all high schools, the expanded on-the-job training program in schools, and the plan to initiate an "industry-based certification."

GOP**From Page 1**

The GOP board members had

already unanimously ratified the endorsement of Gov. Eloy S. Inos and Senate President Ralph DLG Torres (R-Saipan) as party candidates for governor and lieutenant

governor, respectively.

The Republican Party earlier did not entertain former governor Juan N. Babauta's request for a primary, citing the party's

endorsement of the Inos-Torres ticket on Sept. 25, 2013.

The GOP will hold a kickoff rally on March 23, Sunday, at the Susupe basketball courts, to

officially launch the GOP campaign for the November gubernatorial elections.

Former House speaker Heinz S. Hofschneider, an independent,

and former Commonwealth Ports Authority executive director Edward "Tofila" M. Deleon Guerrero, a Democrat, also want to seek election as governor.

EROSION**From Page 1**

Memorial Park.

"The reality is this popular beach will probably keep eroding and nature may soon claim the pavilion at Micro Beach," he added.

Shoreline erosions occur all the time, but erosion at American Memorial Park has been noticeable over the last three to five years. Causes of the erosion are storms, currents, and the possibility of a global climate change.

If not mitigated, there is a possibility that American Memorial Park will lose half of its land in probably 30 to 50 years

due to this constant erosion.

But according to Richardson, "If our experience in interfering with nature has taught us anything, it is that for every action we take, there is a consequence down the road."

National Park Services manages the lands at Micro Beach with technical agreement with the CNMI that essentially leases 177 acres of land to operate the park.

Although they are very concerned with the losses of shore lands, facilities, historical sites, memorials, vegetations, and natural habitats, any action and response that may be taken to arrest the erosion will have to be a joint effort with all partners to ensure that any action will not affect the rest of the island's resources.

"NPS cannot just put in mechanical solutions without a plan that includes consideration to the hotels to the south, the marina operations at Smiling Cove, and other key resources in the area," said Richardson.

He said that NPS has asked for urgent funding of a modeling study that will project what the area will be like in just a few years with no action, and what it might be like with human-induced mitigation.

According to the Coastal Resources Management's website, shoreline erosion is a tourist industry and marina concern.

According to a CRM study on the American Memorial Park, there are 19 transect sites including the park, nearly one

mile of coastline, man-made structures and wharfs that are deteriorating. Very soon, if nothing is done, the Micro Beach pavilion will be next.

According to Kaitlin Mattos, watershed coordinator of the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality, the beaches of Garapan constitute one of Saipan's most valuable resources.

Most of the West Tapochao Central subwatershed is characterized by sandy, gently sloping beaches that serve as a transition zone between terrestrial and marine ecosystems and a focal point of recreation and economic viability.

Based on the shoreline erosion mapping and assessments done in the Garapan area, the

shoreline extending from the southern boundary area (Garapan Fishing Base) to the drainage outlet south of Fiesta Resort and Spa have experienced relative stability over the past two decades.

In contrast, the north and northeast extent of Garapan's shoreline "is very dynamic." This section includes the beach fronts of Fiesta Resort & Spa, Hyatt Regency Saipan, and American Memorial Park.

"It has been subject to significant change on decade, annual, and semi-annual timescales," according to the BECQ's Garapan Conservation Action Plan.

A 2013 study by CRM assessed shoreline data from 2003 through 2011 and con-

firmed previously identified trends of beach loss along the western shore of American Memorial Park, along with significant accretion to the northeast of the park.

"Although coastlines should be expected to shift over time, significant erosion or accretion could greatly affect natural and cultural resources within the watershed area," the study states.

According to CRM, the best solutions is to consider the permanency of the reference point by flagging it continually, informing the tops and downs of locations, taking pictures frequently, recording GPS coordinates, and acquiring dated imagery.

FITIAL**From Page 1**

"Unfortunately, on Oct. 27, 2013, Josie's [his wife] father suffered a very serious stroke and was not expected to survive. Fortunately, his health improved, but his ability to care for himself was severely compromised. Understandably, Josie then became one of his primary caregivers," Fitial said.

Nutting attached the affidavit in support of Fitial's motion on Friday that asked the Superior Court to quash the arrest warrant that Associate Judge David Wiseman issued against him. He also asked the Superior Court to schedule an initial appearance hearing for his voluntary appearance.

In an order issued Monday, Wiseman scheduled a motion hearing on March 17, 2014, at 9:30am. He ordered Nutting and the government's counsel to appear at the hearing.

Contrary to what some may like to believe, Nutting said that Fitial's absence from the Commonwealth has not been because of any desire to avoid addressing the criminal charges that are pending or have been threatened against him.

"His return to his home in

the CNMI has simply been delayed by extraordinary and exceptional circumstances [that] were well beyond his control," Nutting said.

In his declaration, Fitial said that in the last few months of his governance, he saw his ability to effectively lead the CNMI severely compromised by the allegations that were raised against him.

Fitial said that, although he felt he had a duty to persevere and defend against the action, he saw that the Commonwealth was being torn apart by the impeachment proceedings.

"In those troubling times, the CNMI needed a full-time governor and not one who would be side-tracked and distracted in mounting a defense against his detractors," he said.

Fitial resigned as governor on Feb. 21, 2013.

Immediately following his resignation, Fitial and his wife, Josie, left the CNMI and traveled to California to be with their children and to meet with his doctor to address medical issues that had been a constant source of pain in the last several years.

Fitial said they were unable to schedule a meeting with his doctor in California. At the same time, his wife was

forced to undergo some medical procedures that had arisen and required their extended stay, he said.

While in California, Fitial said his health continued to decline and that he needed extensive physical therapy for his back problems.

He said it was also determined that he needed a gall bladder operation. Because they failed to meet his doctor in California, he and his wife traveled to the Philippines in early March 2013 to seek treatment.

On May 6, 2013, Fitial's gall bladder was removed. His diabetes slowed the healing of the wounds.

At the end of May 2013, Fitial said he met Dr. Renato Lipana Jr. of St. Luke's Medical Center in the Philippines to address his continuing back problems.

Fitial underwent weekly physical therapy sessions for eight weeks. During this entire time, he used a wheelchair to get around.

On Aug. 27, 2013, Lipana extended Fitial's therapy for 12 more weekly sessions.

"During this entire period I was unable to travel and to return to my home [on] Saipan to deal with the issues [that] have confronted me," he said.

Fitial said that after his father

in-law's stroke, his wife's uncle died, creating additional stress on the family, which again made it increasingly difficult for them to leave the Philippines and return to Saipan.

Fitial disclosed that most recently, he was asked to undergo certain neurological tests to determine the source of a continuing balance problem that makes it difficult for him to walk.

"The results of those tests have not yet returned. I am hopeful that this will not further delay my return to Saipan," he said.

Despite this personal turmoil that has confronted him and his family, Fitial said he has every hope that he could return home and face the charges against him.

"At the same time, I continue to read numerous articles and editorials which painted me as an evil villain, demanding that I be physically detained and brought back to Saipan to answer charges, even though the press had reported my medical problems," he said.

Fitial said that numerous attorneys whom he had approached claimed to have conflicts of interest, or indicated that they could not work on his case for a number of reasons.

Fitial said it was in late December 2013 when Nutting

agreed to represent him in the criminal case.

Unfortunately, Fitial said, before he and Nutting were able to cement their relationship, Nutting left Saipan for the entire month of January 2014, and that he was only able to retain him in February 2014.

Fitial said he issued his declaration to make clear that he has never sought to ignore the charges brought against him, but to show that extreme and extenuating circumstances have prevented his earlier return.

He noted, however, that due to his health and the situation with his wife's family in the Philippines, it will likely be necessary for him to travel to the Philippines while the criminal case remains pending.

"I wish to assure the court that I will submit and am submitting to the jurisdiction of the court voluntarily and will make all appearances that are required of me," he said.

Nutting pointed out that when Fitial left the Commonwealth, there were no criminal charges against him pending at the time.

"In fact, a criminal complaint has still not been filed against him," the lawyer said.

Nutting asserted that the court has ample grounds to exercise its discretion to quash the war-

rant of arrest and to allow Fitial to voluntarily appear in court.

If Fitial is allowed to appear voluntarily, Nutting said, he gains no advantage other than not being forced to suffer the indignity of an arrest.

"Simply put, the CNMI government will suffer no prejudice," the lawyer added.

In March 2013, the Office of the Public Auditor filed seven criminal charges against Fitial for his role in shielding former attorney general Edward T. Buckingham from being served with penal summons in August 2012.

OPA charged Fitial with conspiracy to commit theft of services, conspiracy to commit obstructing justice: interference with service of process, conspiracy to commit obstructing justice: interference with law enforcement officer or witness, theft of services, misconduct in public office, obstructing justice: interference with law enforcement officer or witness, and obstructing justice: interference with service of process.

Last Feb. 19, Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo found Buckingham guilty of all public corruption charges except one and sentenced him to 3.5 years in prison, all suspended.

Consultant: Hospital interim plan 60 pct. complete

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. may have to wait a few more months before it could implement the organization's interim plan following disclosure that the document is only about 60 percent complete.

CHCC consultant WestCare informed the board and management that the complete and final document may be available around May or June this year.

While WestCare works on the interim plan, the much-awaited "Three-Year Strategic Plan" for the corporation has yet to start. The goal of this strategic plan is to provide quality medical care, promote health and prevention programs, undertake public health disease surveillance, and sound healthcare management, with the overall goal of promoting the health and wellness of CNMI residents and its visitors.

WestCare told the board that the first phase of the interim plan has been completed while the second phase is about to start. A meeting is scheduled this month to con-

tinue this process, according to the consultant.

Saipan Tribune learned that WestCare was contracted using grant monies applied by PIHOA for the CNMI. PIHOA is the Pacific Island Health Officers Association. This grant is for the improvement of public health infrastructure that can be used to develop CHCC's strategic plan. Each year, about \$100,000 is available for the CNMI from this grant. The strategic plan was initially targeted to begin last year but was delayed to this year for some reasons.

WestCare reported that there have been noted accomplishments in the interim plan due to the regular involvement of the management, managers, and stakeholders.

According to WestCare, the interim plan is designed to keep the momentum at the corporation where significant progress and achievements have been noted. This primarily deals with the operations of the corporation.

The document's first draft is expected by this month.

The consultant said that it's only after the interim plan is complete that work on the

strategic plan will commence. The timeframe given is by June or July.

Saipan Tribune learned that since WestCare started, a series of meetings have

been done on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota, seeking input from community members and

stakeholders regarding short and long-term goals for the organization.

Law clerks tout pre-law program to Rotarians



JAYSON CAMACHO

Nicole Torres, center, and Clair Kelleher-Smith, right talk about the CNMI Judiciary's pre-law program at the Rotary Club of Saipan yesterday, as Rotary president-elect Richard Cody, left, listens.

Workforce training on oral health

Staff of the Oral Health Program under the Division of Public Health Dental Clinic went through an oral health workforce development training on Feb. 24-28, 2014.

The training was conducted by Dr. Ohnmar Tut, BDS/MPhil; Dr. Peter Milgrom,

DDS; and Marilynn Rothen, who is a dental hygienist from the University of Washington.

The training was funded by a grant from the Health Resources and Services Administration.

As part of working with partners and stakeholders to better serve the community

with regards to oral health, staff from the Children's Clinic, Women's Clinic, several daycare centers, family caregivers, three on-island dental clinics—Dental Care, Seventh-Day Adventist, and Smile Marianas—and the OHP staff participated in the training/

presentation held at the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. As a result of this training, participants are more knowledgeable and updated with the newest science-based caries prevention strategies that can benefit all dental patients in the CNMI. Those who attended received certificates of completion and attendance. (CHCC)

NMI Judiciary law clerks Nicole M. Torres and Claire Kelleher-Smith spoke with the Saipan Rotary Club yesterday about the upcoming NMI Judiciary 2014 Summer Pre-Law Program, which will be held at the Guma' Hustisia in Susupe from June 23, 2014 to July 11, 2014.

Torres, who is the Summer Pre-Law Program coordinator, explained that the intensive program will introduce participants to legal study, and its analytical and writing demands. It will also prepare participants for the law school admissions process, including the Law School Admission Test. The program will also expose participants to the local legal community and establish "individualized mentorship."

Individuals who are in the process of obtaining, or have already received, an undergraduate or graduate degree are eligible to apply.

Torres said that program participants will have sharper writing skills, an insight on law school curriculum, learn techniques for taking LSAT, and get personal attention from law professors and attorney-mentors.

This year's edition of the program will feature instructors Robert Desiderio and Rose Vilalzor, both of whom have taught in previous programs and assisted many participants with the

law school application process.

The course curriculum includes contracts, property, Moot Court, which is similar to Mock Trial, Law of School Admission workshop, Law School Admission Workshop.

Kelleher-Smith, who is law clerk to Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph Camacho, said that participants will also be introduced to environmental law, Native Hawaiian law, intellectual property law, and international law.

Kelleher-Smith said that participants are expected to spend a considerable amount of time preparing for class sessions with assistance and mentorship, a marked improvement in legal writing skills, and an increased ability to make and evaluate legal arguments.

Applicants are required to submit a brief personal statement. A non-refundable registration fee of \$100 for CNMI residents and \$200 for non-residents will be required.

Deadline to apply is on April 30, 2014. Applications can be obtained at the office of the Clerk of Court at the Guma' Hustisia or online at <http://www.justice.gov.mp/prelaw.aspx>

For more information, contact Torres at (670) 236-9800 or email at nmiprelaw@gmail.com. (Jayson Camacho)

Energy announces weatherization program

The CNMI Energy Division would like to inform the general public that the Residential Weatherization Assistance Program for Low Income Households is now open and will be accepting applications effective March 18, 2014.

Due to limited slots available,

this program will be on a first come, first serve basis. WAP application is available at the Energy Division Office in Capitol Hill, building No. 1337.

If you have any questions regarding the program, contact energy auditor Eugene C. Borja at 664-4481. (PR)



Standing, from left, Elizabeth Cruz, Dr. Omar Sudqi, DDS, Agnes Nabetinan, Agnes Ripple, and Remy Barcenas. Sitting from left, Dr. Peter Milgrom, DDS, Dr. Ohnmar Tut, BDS/MPhil, and Shally Smith.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

MVA installs additional Grotto lookout

To enhance visitors' experience at the Grotto, the Marianas Visitors Authority has recently completed the addition of a second lookout point at the popular scenic spot.

As part of its ongoing destination enhancement, the MVA has been making a series of improvements to major tourism sites, including the Last Command Post, Banzai Cliff, and Bird Island Lookout. The enhancement also includes projects for the islands

of Rota and Tinian.

"The addition of another lookout at Grotto not only allows more visitors to see the beauty of the site, but more importantly, it now provides a safe point for them to do so," said MVA community projects manager Martin Dueñas.

The Grotto, a popular spot for diving and swimming, is a collapsed cavern with underwater passages leading to the open ocean. It is one of the most-visit-

ed sites in Saipan, attracting thousands of visitors each month.

This week the MVA is also overseeing the cleaning and re-painting of the World War II tank located on Beach Rd. and the re-painting of the adjacent bathroom along the Saipan Beach Pathway. Other upcoming projects include repair of the Grotto and Ladder Beach stairways and smoothing of the trail leading to the second lookout point at Mt. Tapochao. (MVA)



MVA

A second lookout point has been constructed by the Marianas Visitors Authority at the Grotto as part of ongoing destination enhancement. As one of Saipan's most popular tourist sites, the Grotto received thousands of visitors each month.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

A leader in Maritime industry is seeking candidates to fill-up but not limited to the following positions:

- WELDERS
- SHIPFITTERS
- PIPEFITTERS
- MARINE MECHANIC

We are an equal opportunity employer and comply with all local and federal laws relevant to employment.

All qualified candidates will receive serious consideration.

Apply by mail to:
To The HR Manager
c/o CABRAS MARINE CORP.
PMB 170 PPP Box 10000
Saipan MP 96950

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Restaurant General Manager (1)

Classification: Full-Time, Exempt, 50 hours per week

Department: Operations

Reports To: Area General Manager (AGM)

Summary of Responsibilities

Prioritize, directs and coordinates the activities of the restaurant to continually strengthen its Brand position and maximize its sales and profitability.

Essential Accountabilities

- People:

- Achieves management staffing and development goals to plan
- Has active succession plan in place for all positions
- Improves employee morale through monitoring and showing urgency in caring for employees.
- Improves staff performance through frequent personal and team coaching
- Reduces incidences and claims by making safety everyone's top priority
- Ensures compliance with all applicable laws

Financials:

- Achieves sales and profit targets to plan
- Corrects daily financial deficiencies with urgency.
- Drives year-over-year growth in sales and profit

Operations:

- Delivers/improves delivery of QSC to franchise operational standards
- Raises the bar in operational execution

Assets:

- Corrects all asset deficiencies with urgency
- Eliminates any potential for liability with urgency

Availability:

- Open availability.
- Minimum 5 day, 50 hour work week.
- Vehicle required.

Other Functions

Performs other duties as assigned.

Required Skills

- Analytical: Able to analyze reports and correct deficient areas efficiently.
- Problem Solving: Able to implement TOSIDPAR problem solving techniques to achieve desired results.
- Organization & Planning: Able to organize priorities and develop/execute plans achieving desired results.
- Coaching: Able to develop the skills of subordinates to perform at a higher level
- Team Building: Able to stabilize staffing and build team bench

Education/Experience

High school diploma and previous management experience required.

Physical and/or Medical Requirements

Must obtain a Tuberculosis Clearance Certificate. Requires standing and walking for the entire workday.

Working Conditions

Minimal hazards. General restaurant working conditions.

Assistant Restaurant General Manager (1)

Classification: Full-Time, Non-Exempt, 40-45 hours per week

Department: Operations

Reports To: Restaurant General Manager (RGM)

Summary of Responsibilities

The Assistant Restaurant General Manager reports directly to the Restaurant General Manager. The ARGH assists the RGM in the achievement of the people, financial and operational goals of the restaurant.

Essential Accountabilities

- People:

- Assists RGM in achieving restaurant's staffing and development goals
- Assists RGM in monitoring/ improving employee morale
- Personally coaches staff
- Ensures safety is everyone's top priority
- Ensures compliance with all applicable laws
- Financial
- Assists RGM in achieving sales and profits to plan.
- Displays urgency to correct daily financial control deficiencies
- Strives to drive year-upon-year growth in sales and profits
- Operations
- Delivers/ improves delivery of QSC to franchise operational standards
- Raises the bar in operational execution
- Assets:
- Ensures facilities are maintained to franchise standard on a daily basis
- Displays awareness of asset deficiencies and urgency to correct them
- Displays awareness and urgency to eliminate any potential for liability
- Availability
- Open availability.
- Minimum 5 day, 40 - 45 hour work week.
- Vehicle required.

Other Functions

Performs other duties as assigned.

Education/Experience

High school diploma and previous management experience required.

Physical and/or Medical Requirements

Must obtain a Tuberculosis Clearance Certificate. Requires standing and walking for the entire workday.

Working Conditions

Minimal hazards. General restaurant working conditions.

Shift Manager (2)

Classification: Full Time, Non-Exempt, 32-40 hours per week

Department: Operations

Reports To: Assistant Restaurant General Manager (ARGM)

Restaurant General Manager (RGM)

Summary of Responsibilities

The Shift Manager reports directly to the Restaurant General Manager. The SM assists the RGM in the achievement of the restaurant's people, operational and financial goals.

Essential Accountabilities

- People:

- Assists RGM in achieving restaurant's staffing and development goals
- Assists RGM in monitoring/improving employee morale
- Personally coaches staff
- Ensures safety is everyone's top priority
- Ensures compliance to all applicable laws
- Financial
- Assists RGM in achieving sales and profits to plan
- Displays urgency in correcting daily financial control deficiencies
- Operations

EMPLOYER'S RIGHTS: This job description does not list all the duties of the job. You may be asked by your supervisors or managers to perform other duties. You will be evaluated in part based upon your performance of the tasks listed in this job description. The employer has the right to revise this job description at any time. The job description is not a contract for employment, and either you or the employer may terminate employment at any time, for any reason.

Crew Member (2)

Classification: Full-Time, Non-Exempt, 32-40 hours per week

Department: Operations

Reports To: Manager In Charge (MIC)

Summary of Responsibilities

Performs a variety of duties that may include the duties of a Telephone Person, Cashier, Register Person, Dough Person, Cut & Pack Cook, Makeable Pizza Preparer, Receiving & Stocking and Lot Person.

TELEPHONE PERSON

Essential Functions

- Answer telephone quickly within Pizza Hut guidelines.
- Clearly communicate to customers all specials and promotions.
- Accurately record customer orders on to POS system.
- Communicate to make table personnel any special requests.
- Keep counter and work area clean and organized at all times.

CASHIER

Essential Functions

- Ensures an accurate accounting of all transactions, collections and disbursements during work shift.
- Receives cash drawer at beginning of work shift and verifies the accuracy by counting money in cash drawer.
- Obtains and reviews information regarding price changes or menu specials.
- Greets guests as they enter the dining area or carryout area.
- May take guests' food and beverage orders and give orders to kitchen staff.
- Itemizes and totals guests' food and beverage purchases or may collect food and beverage checks from guests and ring them to the register.
- Collects cash, checks, or charge payments from guests. Makes change for cash transactions, verifies identification for checks and prepares charge voucher for credit card purchases.
- Counts money, checks, and charge payments in cash drawer at end of shift.
- May reconcile checks, cash receipts and charge sales with total sales to verify accuracy of transactions.
- Stocks counters, display refrigerators, salad bar, and steam table neatly, accurately and in a timely fashion as per menu.
- Checks to ensure that all display foods are presented attractively per standards.
- Displays food under appropriate hot or cold conditions as per standards.
- Keeps display equipment clean and free of debris during meal service, as assigned.
- Cleans workstation thoroughly before leaving area assignment.
- Relays relevant comments received from customers directly to supervisor.

REGISTER PERSON

Essential Functions

- Responsible for providing quick and efficient service to customers.
- Greets customers and takes their food and beverage orders.
- Accurately records customer's orders on to POS system and computes the amount of the bill.
- Serves drinks from dispensing machines or makes and serves hot drinks from water heater or coffee maker.
- Picks up food items from serving bar or storage area.
- Places items on tray or in take-out containers.
- Checks orders to ensure that guest is receiving a complete and correct order.
- Informs kitchen staff of shortages or special requests.
- Collects payment from guest and makes change.
- Helps with preparation of food in kitchen.
- Helps with getting back up food on line
- Washes dishes.
- Informs manager of stock levels.
- Restocks drink station/supplies, paper.
- Checks supplies in counter area - napkins, crushed peppers and cheese, and restocks items to ensure a sufficient supply throughout shift.
- Wipes off front counter with cleaning solution and clean cloth. Keeps counter and floor clean at all times.
- Cleans and restocks dining room.
- Takes trash out to dumpster.
- Performs long-term maintenance on sidewalks, walls, and equipment.
- Sweeps and keeps exterior lot clean at all times throughout the shift.

DOUGH PERSON

Essential Functions

- Responsible for dough preparedness as prescribed from Manager In Charge
- Complies with all portioning, quality standards, rules, policies, and safety procedures.
- Selects and transports raw items to work area and back. Stores finished products in proper places.
- Selects proper equipment and utensils to prepare items as procedures require - dough mixer, whips, pitcher, proofer, bun-o-matic, retarder and dough roller.
- Wipes off front counter with cleaning solution and clean cloth. Keeps counter and floor clean at all times.
- Cleans and restocks dining room.
- Takes trash out to dumpster.
- Performs long-term maintenance on sidewalks, walls, and equipment.
- Sweeps and keeps exterior lot clean at all times throughout the shift.
- Cuts and shapes dough.
- Checks all finished products to ensure compliance with Pizza Hut standards.
- Communicates with make-table personnel, front line personnel and MIC for quality controls and feedback.

CUT & PACK COOK

Essential Functions

- Checks workstations for presence of small equipment, assembly materials, paper goods and condiments.
- Responsible for product assembly, checks appearance and calls out preparation times for all orders.
- Monitors oven setting according to Pizza Hut standards.
- Checks all finished products to ensure compliance with Pizza Hut standards.
- Communicates with make-table personnel, front line personnel and MIC for quality controls and feedback.

MAKE-TABLE PIZZA PREPARER

Essential Functions

- Responsible and required to prepare and assemble all products according to customer's order and according to Pizza Hut portioning specifications.
- Sets up the make-table by checking the worktable, counter, dough cabinets, and line refrigeration to ensure they are properly stocked prior to the meal production period.
- Checks all workstations (make-table, pasta) for presence of appropriate small equipment, assembly materials, and stock levels.
- Monitors all food production areas for safety and sanitation practices and procedures. Checks for cleanliness and orderliness and provides direction/takes action as necessary.
- Sets up production cycles, ensure proper inventory levels are available, and calls to back up or replenish items as necessary.

Physical and/or Medical Requirements
Must obtain a Tuberculosis Clearance Certificate. Position requires well-paced mobility for minimum periods of four hours. Requires standing and walking for the entire workday. Must be able to bend and stoop occasionally. Must be able to occasionally lift 25 lbs.

Working Conditions
Minimal hazards. General restaurant working conditions.

Delivery Driver (1)

Classification: Full Time, Non-Exempt, 32-40 hours per week
Part Time, Non-Exempt, less than 32 hours per week

Department: Operations

Reports To: Manager In Charge (MIC) / Dispatcher

Summary of Responsibilities

Delivers customer's order in a timely and safe manner within accordance of Pizza Hut guidelines and compliance with State and Federal traffic laws.

Essential Functions

- Drives competently and complies with all traffic laws.
- Delivers products in a timely manner with accuracy and courteousness.
- Collects checks, cash or credit card slips to properly tender order.
- Performs secondary duties such as washing dishes, cleaning, prep and cooking duties.
- Keeps car and work area clean and organized throughout shift.

Other Functions

Performs other duties as assigned.

Education/Experience

High school diploma preferred.

Abilities, Knowledge, and Skills

Must be at least 18 years of age. Must possess a valid CNMI driver's license with a minimum of 2 years driving experience. Must have an acceptable driving record. Must provide own insured vehicle for deliveries. Able to read and follow road maps. Must be able to speak, read, write and understand English. Must be able to communicate clearly, courteously and efficiently with customers.

Physical and/or Medical Requirements
Must obtain a Tuberculosis Clearance Certificate. Position requires well-paced mobility for a minimum of four hours. Requires driving, standing and walking for most of the workday. Must be able to lift 25 lbs. occasionally.

Working Conditions
Minimal hazards. General restaurant working conditions.

2 Saipan businesswomen nominated for Maga'haga Award

HAGĀTÑA, Guam—Two businesswomen on Saipan have been nominated for the 2014 Businesswoman of the Year Maga'haga Award.

Esther F. Sablan, who owns the Saipan Music & Dance Studio, and Shirley Ann T. Sablan, executive vice president and general manager of Pacifica Insurance Underwriters, were named, together with eight other nominees, during an announcement yesterday by First Hawaiian Bank and

Guam Business Magazine.

The eight other nominees are Cynthia V. Ecube, attorney, Law Offices of Cynthia V. Ecube; Mildred M. Gabriel, pharmacist, Guam Rexall Drugs; Monica O. Guzman, CEO/managing director, Galaide Group LLC; Eloisa D. Hudson, owner, sunglasses, etc., etcetera Boutique and ba6 apparel; Sandra E. Low, owner, Opus One; Liza Ann J. Provido, principal architect, Provido Tan Jones

Architects Inc.; Pamela S. Quiñata, general manager/area sales manager, Xerox Corp.; and Deanne S.N. Torre, managing partner, Bigfish Creative.

The Maga'haga Award will be presented at the Businesswoman of the Year gala on April 26, 2014, at the Hyatt Regency Guam in conjunction with the release of the *Guam Business Magazine* May/June issue, featuring a commissioned photo study of the recipient on its cov-

er. Proceeds from the gala will fund scholarships at the University of Guam, Guam Community College, and Northern Marianas College.

Tickets for the gala on April 26 may be purchased from Dana Rae Hill who can be reached at danaraehill@gmail.com.

The 2013 Businesswoman of the Year Maga'haga award recipient was F. Marie Calvo-Monge, chief operating officer and executive producer of Pa-

cific Telestations Inc., which operates the stations of KUAM. Past recipients include Mary P. Rhodes (2012), president of the Guam Hotel & Restaurant Association and president of MARQ Consulting Services; Joyce Quinata Crisostomo (2011), executive director of Cars Plus and president of Payless Car Rental; Anna Wang Kao (2010), founder and president of Genghis Khan Furniture Co.; Lorraine S. Okada (2009), execu-

tive manager of Carlsmith Ball LLP, and president and owner of Managing Consulting Services; Julianne Rose Perez Duenas (2008), physical therapist, owner and clinical director of Sports, Orthopedic and Active Rehabilitation Inc.; Christine Won Pat Baeto (2007), general manager of Market Wholesale Distributors; and Katherine Calvo Sgro (2006), executive vice president and chairwoman of the board of Pay-Less Markets Inc. (PR)

Woman in CW1 scam pleads guilty

A woman charged in federal court for her alleged involvement in a CW program scam pleaded guilty on Friday.

Rosabella P. Cruz allegedly conspired with a job-placement agency owner and another person to file petitions for CNMI-only Transitional Worker permits for

some alien workers that falsely and fraudulently named the company as the workers' employer.

Cruz, who appeared with court-appointed counsel Michael Evangelista, pleaded guilty to a count of conspiracy to commit visa fraud and to defraud the United States.

The offense carries a maximum penalty of five years in prison, a \$250,000 fine, and a three-year supervised release.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona set Cruz's sentencing for July 25, 2014.

Manglona advised Cruz to maintain contact with her attorney and that she continue to abide with all of her release conditions.

According to the plea agreement, Cruz took a job at ARCH International Co. Ltd. in July 2011. She held this job until January 2012, working for Mariano K. Pangelinan.

While working for ARCH, Cruz agreed with Pangelinan to deceive U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services by preparing and filing with USCIS, on behalf of aliens, I-129 CW

visa petitions that falsely named ARCH as each alien's "employer" when she and Pangelinan knew that the company did not employ these aliens.

Cruz and Pangelinan agreed to submit false and fraudulent evidence to USCIS such as fake employment contracts between ARCH and each alien, and fake tax documents for the aliens supposedly employed by ARCH.

On July 9, 2012, Cruz took \$32.32 as payment from an alien for "one month tax" when she knew that this alien had not received any wages from ARCH and that she had created the receipt solely for use to deceive USCIS.

Last December, Pangelinan pleaded guilty. He will be sentenced on May 9, 2014. (Ferdie de la Torre)



DOWN IN JAMAICA

Dr. Grace Turner, fifth from right in traditional dress, Fulbright Scholar-in-Residence at the Northern Marianas College, recently hosted the "Down in Jamaica" competition #2 with the full support of Leo Pangelinan, dean of Student Services, where students were asked to answer questions about Jamaica, Turner's home country. Winners of the competition, shown in this photo, were awarded prizes from Jamaica by Turner during a ceremony with the students and NMC officials. From left are Diana Benavente, standing in for Margaret Seman Rasa, Anne Elenzano, NMC CREES director Ross Manglona, Leoric Primo, NMC president Dr. Sharon Hart, Christian Camacho, Turner, Barbara Merfalen, dean of Academic Programs & Services; Ohng Hee Sun, Justin Mallari, and Maritoni Raganot.

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS



Happy birthday greetings to my brother, Bernardo C. Montano, who is celebrating his 44th birthday today, March 12! May you have many more years to come! Stay healthy! Greetings come from your sister Jane, Borge, Jemo, Jerome, and Janvir.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Happy birthday to Esperanza Palacios! We wish you the best in life that God has to offer! We love you forever! Greetings come from the family.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Happy 6th birthday to our lovely daughter, Julianne Claire Bella! You are the most beautiful gift anyone has ever been gifted with. We love you more than words can express. Hugs and love always from Mama and Papa.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Belated happy birthday to Orchid Bella! May the Lord bless you everyday and many more birthdays to come! We hope you enjoyed your special day.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

March 12, 2006

Japan space adventure firm eyes the NMI

A Japanese space adventure company is looking at Saipan and Tinian as possible flight stations. The company, Space Japan, through a Tokyo-based law firm, wrote the Commonwealth Ports Authority last month to explore the possibility of the CNMI as a base. "Space Japan needs Saipan and the airport of Tinian as an airport for a space experience flight. ... Is establishment in the Saipan airport possible? What license is required?" reads a portion of the Feb. 8, 2006 letter from the Hayashi Law Office to CPA.

The law office said Space Japan would mainly conduct sightseeing flights. The company will use a jet aircraft and a Russia MIG.

Airport car rentals' fees exceed revenue'

Following the pullout of Japan Airlines in October 2005, the revenue of car rental companies at the Saipan airport plunged so low that their monthly rental fees exceed their monthly earnings, information from the Commonwealth Ports Authority showed. As a result, the companies have petitioned the CPA to adjust their monthly payment terms in view of reduced

revenues. In a Feb. 16, 2006, letter to six airport car rental companies, CPA executive director Lee Cabrera affirmed that, based on its analysis, "car rental agencies [in recent months] were paying monthly rental payments that exceeded their monthly revenues."

March 12, 2007

NMI Senate remains at odds over immigration

The Commonwealth Senate remains divided on the proposed federal takeover of local immigration, even while its U.S. counterpart has begun work on legislation implementing this. During a session Thursday, local senators debated a proposed Senate resolution opposing any attempt by the U.S. Congress to federalize immigration and labor in the CNMI. Authored by Sen. Luis Crisostomo, Senate Resolution 15-37 is addressed

to U.S. congressional leaders, the U.S. Office of Insular Affairs, the Fitial administration, and the Washington Representative's Office.

Labor: Issues on medical expense need a common-sense approach

Department of Labor Secretary Gil M. San Nicolas has stressed that under the law employers should shoulder all medical expenses by their workers. "Although it's not really defined, we just take the common sense approach that if it's a medical-related illness, employers must provide for it. But if it's just a luxury—for facelift or braces—of course, let's be real about it," San Nicolas told Saipan Tribune. San Nicolas explained the medical expenses issue when asked about a concerned employer who was allegedly billed \$41,000 for an employee who got medical treatment

outside the Commonwealth.

March 12, 2008

Ranking Boy Scouts officials visit Saipan

Ranking officials of the Boy Scouts of America swung by Saipan yesterday for a one-day visit on a trip that aims to check the various scouting programs in the Micronesian region and to determine what needs to be done to help the movement grow in the Pacific. The eight-person delegation was led by Chief Scout Executive Robert J. Mazzuca from Irving, Texas, and Council Scout Executive Jeff Woolsey of the Aloha Council in Honolulu, Hawaii. "We're on a tour of the scouting programs in the Micronesia and the Marshall Islands through the Aloha Council, which is responsible for this area," Mazzuca said. "First, we are checking them out and second, we want to help determine what are the

resources we can bring to help grow the program here. Scouting is such a valuable asset to any community and the young people out here on the islands can certainly use it."

Mechanical problem disrupts power supply to four schools

Another mechanical problem in one of the power engines at the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s Power Plant I in Lower Base triggered rolling outages and affected four public schools. CUC acting power manager Gary P. Camacho told Saipan Tribune that the mechanical problem on Engine No. 6 caused the utility agency to implement power load shedding. Schools affected by the outages were Southern High School, San Antonio Elementary School, Tanapag Elementary School, and Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School.

Gary and Wilma tie the knot in March wedding

Gary Ragsag and Wilma Gamundoy, who both work at the Commonwealth Health Center's Intensive Care Unit, first met in 2009. As Wilma tells it, it wasn't actually an auspicious first meeting.

According to her, "We did not have a good working relationship at first until we got the opportunity to know each other better and became good friends." That's when romance bloomed between the two.

Four years later, on Jan. 1, 2013, Gary proposed to Wilma. The happy couple finally tied the knot on March 1, 2014, at Mt. Carmel Church in the presence of family, friends, co-workers, and other guests.

The Mass was officiated by Fr. Ray Rosal and co-celebrated by Fr. Nonoy Recaido and Fr. Florentino Daynos.

Rommel Catalma took the role of best man, while Josephine G. Reyes was the maid of honor.

The principal sponsors were Dr. Joel Smith, Dr. Ester Kanayjorn, Dr. Vicente and Margaret Aldan, Joaquin Tor-



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The newlyweds have their picture taken with their female principal sponsors.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The bride and groom have their picture taken with their male principal sponsors.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The bride and groom have their picture taken with their flower girls, ring bearer, coin bearer, and Bible bearer.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The newlyweds have their picture taken with Fr. Ray Rosal, Fr. Nonoy Recaido, and Fr. Florentino Daynos.

res and Dianne Torres, Johny Aldan and Rosa Tudela, John Reyes and Leticia Reyes, Nick Muna and Ester Muna,

Nelson Batallones, Cecilia Pagapular, Dominador Pineda, Fe Calixterio, Rafael Santos and Sylvia Santos, and

Jeffrey and Normita Cania.

The newlywed couple's wedding coordinator was Ernie Molina. (*Saipan Tribune*)



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The newlyweds have their picture taken with their principal sponsors.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Friends, family, relatives, and other well-wisher have their picture taken with the happy couple.

Opinion

Saipan Tribune

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EDITORIAL

The plight of Myanmar's Rohingya

Myanmar, the country formerly known as Burma, has made substantial progress in the last few years, moving from military rule toward democracy, releasing political prisoners and freeing from house arrest Nobel Prize-winning democracy activist Aung San Suu Kyi. However, the government has relentlessly continued its appalling treatment of the Rohingya population that lives in Rakhine state in western Myanmar.

A Muslim minority in an overwhelmingly Buddhist country, the Rohingya are effectively denied citizenship unless they can meet onerous requirements, such as tracing their lineage back decades. They are restricted in where they can live and work, are limited to having two children and have been subject to brutal violence at the hands of mobs unchecked by local police. More than 1 million Rohingya live in Myanmar, including about 180,000 in squalid internal displacement camps, according to Human Rights Watch. The United Nations has deemed the Rohingya one of the most persecuted groups in the world.

Recently, violence against the Rohingya has escalated, according to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. Two attacks in January left an estimated four dozen Rohingya dead in a village in Rakhine, according to the U.N. report. Myanmar's response has been to deny that it happened.

Late last month, Doctors Without Borders was ordered by the government to shut down its extensive operations across the country. Two days later, it was allowed to resume working everywhere except in Rakhine, where the organization provided primary care to tens of thousands of Rohingya.

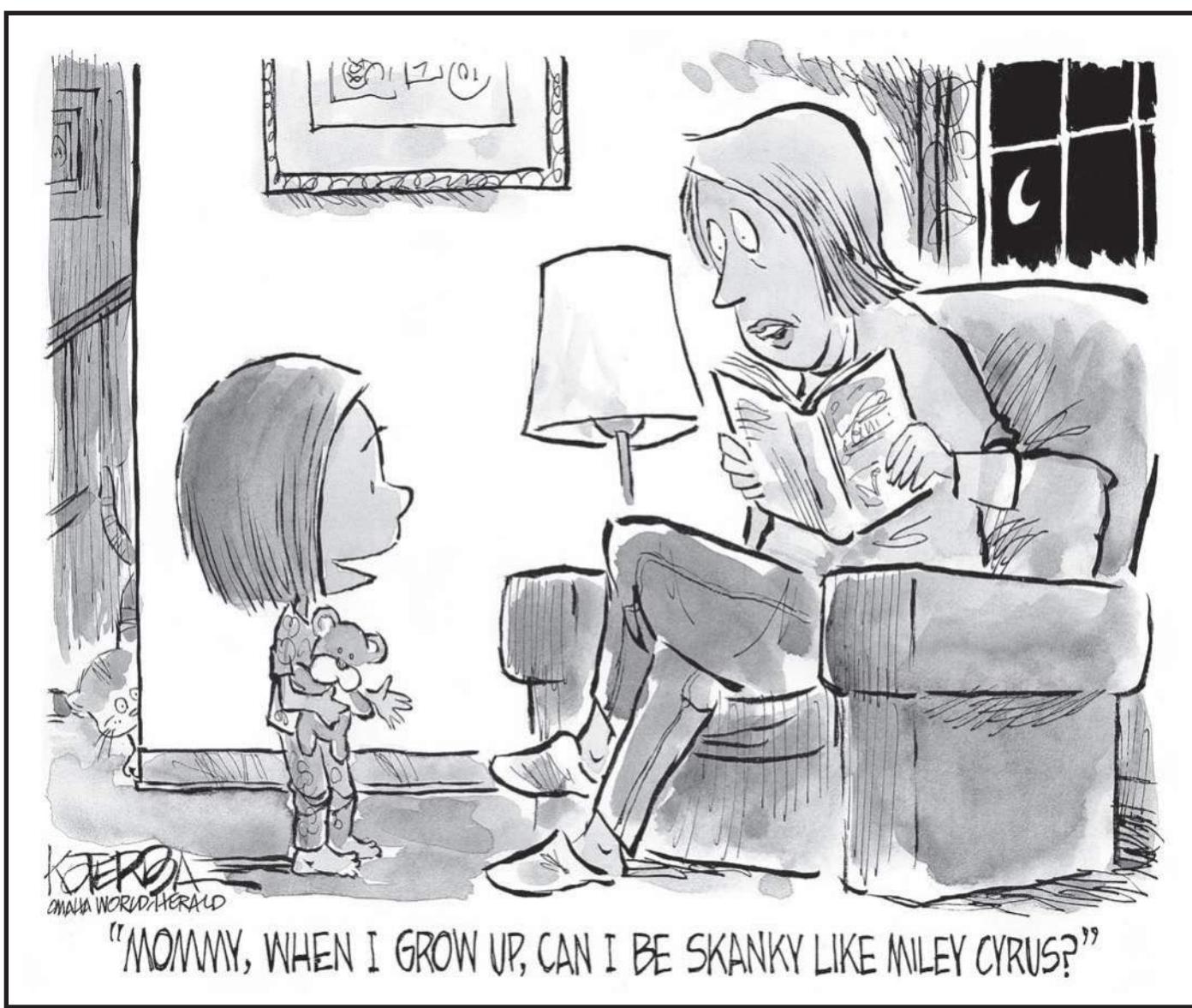
This state-sponsored oppression must end. Myanmar needs to lift restrictions against the Rohingya and revamp its citizenship requirements. Security forces under government control should be deployed to Rakhine to supplant or oversee local police, who are often too prejudiced against the Rohingya to do their jobs properly. The government should also allow humanitarian groups back into Rakhine to provide aid and to monitor how the Rohingya are treated.

And it should investigate this latest mass killing. The U.N. report notes that some of the Rohingya played a role in the violence—they killed a police sergeant in retaliation for the initial killing of eight Rohingya villagers. That's not excusable, but it's also no excuse for continued mistreatment of the entire group.

Over the last few years, the U.S. has generously applauded the government of Myanmar for its steps toward democracy. Now the United States should press President Thein Sein harder and call for him to extend that democracy to the Rohingya.

It's unconscionable that Suu Kyi, a human rights icon, has not wielded her considerable moral authority to talk about this issue. She should abandon her diffident stand on the plight of the Rohingya and forcefully condemn the repression of and violence against them. A strong leader would not allow short-term political expediency to keep her from speaking out on a critical, life-and-death issue.

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ASIANA

I waited three days before writing this article so that I can be as objective as possible over what I experienced as a rather primitive treatment by ASIANA Airlines as a transit passenger in between flights for more than 12 hours. I traveled from Saipan on my way to Dalian, Liaoning, China. I left Saipan at 3pm and arrived in Incheon at 7pm, a five-hour flight given the time difference. My connecting flight was at 9:25am, a transit time of 14 hours. I approached the ASIANA desk as soon as I got out of the plane and I was told that I will have to find my own accommodations for the night, if I wanted to stay at a hotel.

Now, when I traveled on Korean Air from Honolulu to Shenyang where I live, and transit through Incheon/Seoul International Airport, I was usually directed to a bus that took me to a hotel for the night, with dinner or breakfast provided, before returning to the airport for my connecting flight. I remember those transit times to be less than 12 hours of duration, but the airline always had someone waiting after immigration to get me to a hotel in Incheon. I was expecting the same service from ASIANA, being a transiting international passenger.

I was under the impression that IATA members treat a passenger transiting for more than half-a-day as their responsibility and thereby to be directed where to spend the night. I do not know this for sure, but this was my recollection in the little I knew dealing with visitors in Manila, Saipan, and other Pacific Isles.

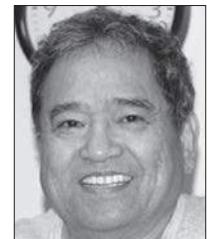
Anyway, aboard OZ 603 from Saipan, I told the stewards that I was transiting for more than 12 hours. They handed me the immigration and custom's forms, which I filled out the same way I had done before when transiting overnight on Korean Air. Eyeing the ASIANA counter before going through Immigration, I went to inquire hoping that I could be accommodated at the airport's transit hotel. I was told that not only does ASIANA not have a hotel for transit passengers, but that either I make my own accommodations outside the arrival area, or go up to the fourth floor to the passengers' waiting lounge. It was all up to me.

Not particularly enamored about stepping out in Korea's cold (Saipan was pleasantly warm, thank you; and the following day will get me to the cold of China's Dong Bei that snowed the week before) to get to a hotel that I had to pay for, I went up to terminal A's fourth floor to check the accommodations.

The Hub charged \$21 for five hours. I asked if that would be \$42 for 10 hours, and I got a smile. The place closes after midnight 2200 hours. I went to the Transit Hotel and asked the lady if she had space for 10 to 12 hours, and she said, she did. "That will be \$163, please," she added. I am not normally a miser but the rate was ridiculous. I could imagine the cost of the hotels immediately outside the airport,

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

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or those 20 miles away in Incheon. I looked for the public lounge.

The supervisor I talked to at the ASIANA desk, a Mr. K. H. Kim, looked like he'd been on duty all day, preferring not to be bothered. I used to be an associate at a computer department store's customer service desk outs and we were oriented to a customer's objective situation as well as expressed desires. I told him that I just needed to be clarified about their policy: Was a transient passenger for more than 12 hours on their flights a responsibility of the airline? He did not respond either "Yes" or "No." He just summarily declared that he could not do anything. The airline did not put up transient passengers, he said. What I will do was up to me. I asked if there was anyone else who might be able to clarify the responsibility issue, and I got a "No" answer. He was it and he cannot do anything.

This was the week ASIANA was fined, or rather, slapped on the wrist, with a half a million dollar court judgment for that fateful accident at the San Francisco airport July of last year where it was deemed that ASIANA did not act fast enough to deal with passengers' welfare. Three young female students from China died in the mishap when the plane missed the runway. Saipan-originating Dong Bei passengers on ASIANA are probably infrequent, and my ceasing to ever patronize ASIANA again, even if I have to go through Hagatña when traveling to Saipan, was not going to affect their bottom line. But they lost a customer. A pity. After flying with them enough times in the last five years, I finally applied for their mileage card. I will lose my accumulated mileage but never the mind. Chuck one less customer for ASIANA.

For Supervisor Kim, there are other ways of dealing with customers without alienating their sense of fairness. The reclining seats at the News & Movie room were OK, even those on the public lounge. You may try promoting their virtues. For friends and acquaintances on Saipan and elsewhere, I suggest that you look closely at the customer service of ASIANA, and if you have a choice, I recommend you take the other one.

An-nyung-hi-ke-se-yo, ASIANA!

Casino: Not in our future!

The two-headed snake is back in our midst. Obviously, legislators must have learned well Nancy Pelosi's infamous chime, "Let's approve it now and find out what's in it later."

Legislators quickly approved the measure hoping to tiptoe out of the garden of public scrutiny like midnight thieves, undetected. It's a show of sheer arrogance, ignoring the powerful voice of the people who shot it down twice in recent past. Sorry, this sentry of public conscience is a very light sleeper.

The exclusive 80-year license is set at \$15 million per year plus \$1 million application fee and a two-year advance of \$30 million. The attractive feature of the license is its exclusivity. Isn't the requirement of the settlement agreement that pays 75 percent of pension pay (excluding the 25-percent cut) agreed at \$45 million annually? It's obvious the huge shortfall in casino revenue earmarked for the Fund, discounting other obligations, true? So it's a superficial answer that isn't an answer either, right?

The exclusive license makes it vital that we maximize revenue collection to the tune of \$600 million for the first 25 years with renewal for another 25 years plus a 20-percent increase in COLA. No tax breaks at all, otherwise the investment turns into zero-sum at our expense.

Have our visionaries taken stock of fully poised casino competition from nearby Macau, Singapore, the Philippines, South Korea, and Japan by 2016? Each has a wealthy population to support their industry. With this in mind, where's our market share in an industry that begins to turn into a glut? Would not this competition reduce casino revenues here and isn't it an issue that requires some sense of responsible review and thoughtful disposition?

The pipe dream and suspect Holy Grail that casino is the answer requires reading what has happened elsewhere on an industry that has failed to scrounge up the salivated projected revenues. "Casino revenues have been less than half the initial projection. After two years of operation, Ohio's casino tax revenues are already dropping," according to a magazine article from the Institute for American Values.

"Indeed, casino revenues are down in a number of states, includ-

ing Colorado, Louisiana, Missouri and Wisconsin. In Indiana, casino revenues hit an eight-year low. In Mississippi, revenues are down 27 percent from the 2007 peak and the casinos have slashed 8,500 jobs.

When "larger neighboring states legalized casinos, Delaware's gambling tax revenues plummeted. To offset losses, Delaware legalized table games and sports betting in 2010. Online gambling was added in 2012.

"The added gambling has not stopped the losses. The problem is Delaware no longer attracts out-of-state gamblers because the surrounding states all have casinos. With a population of less than 1 million, Delaware does not have enough gamblers to support its casinos.

"Last year, the casinos threatened layoffs unless Delaware lowered their tax rate. Instead, Gov. Jack Markell gave the casinos \$8 million in subsidies. So, the Delaware casinos have gone from generating tax revenues to receiving a government bailout. The state is now scrambling to prop up an industry that produces nothing and entices residents to lose money."

Nearby Philippines has a lot going for its visitors other than its now thriving casino industry. There's a lot to see, be it for individual visitors or the family. It tried opening a casino in Subic and Clark but failed to get anywhere. So it turned it into a free trade zone area for industrial purposes.

Is the rush to judgment prompted by having attracted billionaires like Lawrence Ho, chairman of Melco International, David Chow of Macau Legend, fashion icon Karl Lagerfeld, US firms like MGM, Las Vegas Sands and Wynn? Or did we invite ourselves to our own imaginary investor's table?

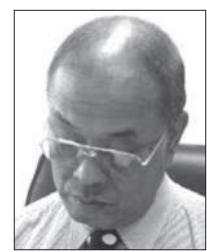
2019 end of retirement

The usual icing on the cake is placed prominently on the casino legislation to silence retirees whose salaries were axed by 25 percent. It's an act of desperation with superficial political salvation that lasts as long as morning dew.

In other words, the projected revenue generation is as real as a three-dollar bill. Furthermore, it would be years before the proposed industry gets off the ground. Is 2019 when the retirement program

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.



ends a realistic date or is there a more realistic timeline?

The biggest concern is rather very simple: Do we know what the beast entail, its size, operations and who's involved and, most importantly, is the investor trustworthy? How do we know that the suspect investment isn't accompanied by "big time" criminal elements beyond our comprehension? Isn't the murder of 11 Chinese indicative that a criminal group has already infiltrated the islands and is it our intention to roll out the carpet?

Right off the bat, the projected revenue has a shortfall of some \$41 million so how would this pay for the 75 percent pension pay, much less the 25 percent cut in pension? Something doesn't add up in this fuzzy math. But do policymakers care about our economic, fiscal future, peace and tranquility on the islands? Are we ready to serve as slaves of criminals with tons of money from nearby Asia? The projected revenue is missing, making casino revenues a pipe dream.

It won't cover the 25-percent cut, increase in health premiums, constant increase in power bills, pending food price increases, among others. It's a pure case of liarship, not leadership, *di ba?*

It goes to show the caliber of policymakers who have succumbed to the instant soba mindset. It's an equal surrender to fiduciary responsibility that requires thoughtful policies.

Perhaps there's truth to the saying "history repeats itself." It's time to do instant replay of the 1979 election when all pro-casino lawmakers were soundly booted out of office. We forced former commander-in-mischief Benigno Fitial out of office. Let's render the same to incumbents this November. It's the right thing to do, so let's do it right!

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Thoughts on the casino bill

Most of our information comes from the newspapers, whether they are correct or not. Our politicians use the media themselves to communicate with us. As a businessman trying to make a living on Saipan and encouraging businesses to move here, I am terrified of this casino bill and what it implies.

Questions:

- Is the rebate changing?
- Why would you take away the rebate from small business and the people while giving a 100 percent rebate to a casino?
- Has there been any thought or consideration, or have they ever asked business or the people of the consequences?
- What study or planning has taken place? (This sound like a "pass it so we know what is in it" thinking)
- Do we remember the \$190 million contract? (The smell is the same, negotiated in darkness)
- Why was this done in haste?
- Why are the citizens not involved?
- Follow the money, where does it lead?
- Does this sound like it is tailored to one investor who told them what to do?
- What is the pay off? (Government contracts rammed through smell of opportunity for a few without thought to consequences)
- Has there ever been a study showing the income to the government from casinos?
- Is there any consideration for an honest evaluation?
- Is a 2,000-room hotel even reasonable?
- Does the license affect the Dynasty?
- How many people would you need to work in a 2,000-room hotel and casino? (I am told between 2,500 and 3,000)
- Where will that many workers come from?
- Will they live in barracks like the garment industry?
- What will the room be like with traffic during shift change?
- What will the impact be on the village where the hotel will be built? Water? Power? Sewer?
- What kind of impact will this have on the island and those concerned about culture?
- How many years for this to be built? 6 or 7?
- How will that save the retirement?
- How many visitors can this island handle? 1 million? 2 million?
- How many people do we want living on the island? 70K?

Which would you choose

Which would you choose: Our safety or desperately needed revenue for our government? If we say no to casino, a possible bankruptcy is expected to occur with the government.

With the retirement funds diminishing, our hospital and CUC demanding payment for what our government owes, the need for training and education funding, health insurance, and the Department of Public Safety funding needs, our leaders continue to ask the people of Saipan and the entire CNMI to consider the casino investment for they see the huge amount of money it will generate to solve our problems.

If we choose to have the casino they are proposing, then there are possible things to worry. Even today, as we move away from the poker investment, many problems are still occurring on Saipan. There are drug issues, family bankruptcy issues, children starving, people being robbed and killed, families having financial difficulties due to addiction to gambling, and banks repossessing vehicles. Imagine if we vote for casino.

So, which would you choose? Your safety or risking the chance for a better outcome with lots of issues to deal with that comes with

it? Are we ready for that challenge? Taking the risk with bankruptcy also comes with similar issues if poker business is still allowed. If our leaders vote to close all poker arcades that don't have casino licenses like the Dynasty and the casino on Rota, what do you think the outcome will be? Look at it as a casino for the CNMI, and not just for Tinian and Rota.

Our leaders say that poker is entertainment. If this is true then why is it that a lot of people lose their paycheck on it? Why do they not sleep 24 hours just to gamble their paycheck away? Who do you think is supporting the poker establishment, tourists or our people?

What if they legalize casino and ban all poker establishment outside the casino on all three islands (Saipan, Tinian, and Rota)? Allow casino owner to invite these poker establishments to invest in the casino? Do you think it will make a difference? After all, the Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino is the only one paying for a casino license and I believe they deserve to be respected for that.

Imagine if they do close the poker arcades and government revenue lessens, what do you think will happen? I'm predicting people will find other ways to make fast money, maybe farming, cockfighting, fishing,

100K? 150K?

- What would those numbers look like?
- What would our roads look like?

I am sure there are plenty of you out there who have many more questions.

These are only a few of the questions to be asking our government leaders. They need to be reminded that elections are coming. With all the economic studies that have been completed the past three years (I believe five), are there business besides casinos that might be good. Elected officials: Look to improve the business climate to attract businesses and not destabilize it with half-baked bills that look self serving.

We, as an island, need to plan for the future and identify what we want become. Do we want to be Tumon or Honolulu? Leaders, why do you do this to us? Leaders, feel free to call me if you are truly interested in what one of the voters and businessman on island has to say.

Del Benson
Capital Hill, Saipan

making doni, or probably just maintaining their jobs or possibly become a drug dealer, or opening a night club. The government might reduce FTEs and salaries, who knows, maybe another host of issues will grow from these changes. That is a risk we have to take in choosing to get rid of pokers. It might not be bad to ask the people of Guam what was the impact when they voted out the poker machines.

It would also be wise to research Mr. Bennett's suggestion for legalizing cannabis if this would really generate revenue that we desperately need. How much money does alcohol and cigarette generate? How much will the casino generate? How much do the poker establishments generate? And then research how much revenue cannabis generates in places where it is legal.

The CNMI is so small compared to the United States. We are vulnerable to being overcome or taken over by these rich and powerful investors. So be careful what you wish for. God is the only one who can help us now. So, think about it.

Winnie Atalig
San Jose, Tinian

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.pr.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Partly cloudy and windy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 20 to 30 mph.	Partly sunny and breezy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 25 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.

▲ 87° ▾ 75°

▲ 86° ▾ 75°

▲ 87° ▾ 75°

▲ 87° ▾ 76°

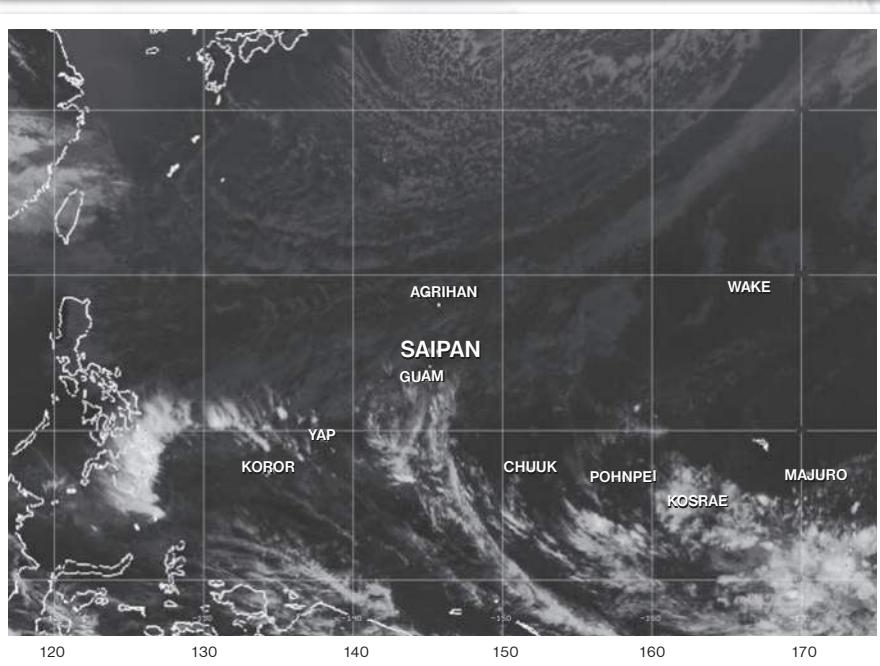
▲ 87° ▾ 76°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲ 83	▼ 76
Palau	Showers	▲ 86	▼ 74
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲ 88	▼ 77
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲ 85	▼ 80
Pohnpei	Showers	▲ 87	▼ 77
Kosrae	Showers	▲ 87	▼ 77
Majuro	Showers	▲ 86	▼ 81

Around The Globe

Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲ 74	▼ 60
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	▲ 53	▼ 28
Hong Kong	Showers	▲ 72	▼ 66
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲ 80	▼ 69
London	Partly Cloudy	▲ 60	▼ 36
Los Angeles	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 75	▼ 55
Manila	Partly Cloudy	▲ 88	▼ 76
Melbourne	Showers	▲ 68	▼ 52
Miami	Sunny	▲ 81	▼ 70
New York	Partly Cloudy	▲ 57	▼ 41
Osaka	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 61	▼ 53
Paris	Sunny	▲ 64	▼ 42
Pusan	Showers	▲ 60	▼ 44
Rome	Sunny	▲ 63	▼ 44
Salem	Partly Cloudy	▲ 58	▼ 33
San Francisco	Sunny	▲ 69	▼ 51
Seoul	Showers	▲ 53	▼ 34
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	▲ 61	▼ 46
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	▲ 69	▼ 46



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, TUESDAY, MARCH 11, 2014

Western North Pacific between the equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front curves southwestward from northwest of Wake Island at 25N 162E to beyond 130E at 12N. Cloudiness and scattered showers are occurring along and up to 150 miles northwest of this front. A diffuse shear line stretches westward from near Guam at 11N 147E to 10N 130E. Patchy clouds and scattered showers are present south of Guam and north of Yap and Koror along and up to 150 miles north of the shear line. A surface trough extends southeastward south of Pohnpei and Kosrae from 3N 156E to EQ 173E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are found near Kosrae and over Butaritari and Tarawa between the equator and 6N from 156E to the date line.

Tides

Sunrise/Sunset

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	6:27 AM	6:27 PM	Today	2:51 PM	3:03 AM
Thursday	6:27 AM	6:27 PM	Thursday	3:40 PM	3:45 AM
Friday	6:26 AM	6:27 PM	Friday	4:28 PM	4:26 AM
Saturday	6:25 AM	6:27 PM	Saturday	5:16 PM	5:06 AM
Sunday	6:24 AM	6:27 PM	Sunday	6:05 PM	5:45 AM

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The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

ISLAND SNAPSHOT

Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.

BUSINESS

Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.

SAMUT SARI

Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.

TRAVELOGUE

Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

CAMPUS BULLETIN

Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

the name of contact person, and a phone number.

- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan

To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 25, 2014

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA5070	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA5068	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA5039	1:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota
UA5038	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6
UA5078	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily
UA5072	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA5039	1:35pm	2:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7
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ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA5038	2:40pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7
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SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)

OZ119	4:00am	6:40am	Daily
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SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:00am	8:40am	Daily
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SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

0Z608	3:10am	6:20am	1, 4, 5, 7
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SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

0Z606	2:10am	6:00am	1
0Z602	2:20am	5:50am	3
0Z606	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
0Z603	3:30am	7:20am	4, 7 (will increase eff Jan 29)
D2104	2:00pm	5:30pm	6
D2604	3:20pm	7:10pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)</h4

Business

Study: 2 percent of Americans have new hips, knees

By MARILYNN MARCHIONE
AP CHIEF MEDICAL WRITER

It's not just grandma with a new hip and your uncle with a new knee. More than 2 of every 100 Americans now have an artificial joint, doctors are reporting.

Among those over 50, it's

even more common: Five percent have replaced a knee and more than 2 percent, a hip.

"They are remarkable numbers," said Dr. Daniel J. Berry, chairman of orthopedic surgery at the Mayo Clinic. Roughly 7 million people in the United States are living with a total hip or knee



replacement.

He led the first major study to estimate how prevalent these procedures have become, using federal databases on surgeries and life expectancy trends. Results were reported Tuesday at an American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons conference in New Orleans.

More than 600,000 knees and about 400,000 hips are replaced in the U.S. each year. But until now, there haven't been good numbers on how many people currently are living with new joints. The number is expected to grow as the population ages, raising questions about cost, how long the new parts will last, and how best to replace the replacements as they wear out over time.

Why the boom?

"People are aware that they're a success" and are less willing to put up with painful joints, Berry said.

Delta publishes 2015 SkyMiles Program U.S. Award Chart

ATLANTA—Delta Air Lines released the 2015 SkyMiles U.S. Award redemption charts yesterday as part of its commitment to inform members of upcoming SkyMiles program improvements. Of the 44 Award level pricing changes, more than 95 percent of the changes reflect a decrease in the miles needed for Award Travel redemption by SkyMiles members.

Delta recently introduced a new mileage earning structure and redemption options for SkyMiles members. Today, members can access U.S. Award chart online at delta.com/skymiles2015 which will be effective for new Award Tickets booked beginning Jan. 1, 2015. Customers will continue to have access to every seat on every Delta flight as an Award seat with no blackout dates.

"The most consistent feedback we received from our SkyMiles members was a desire to improve their ability to use miles and provide more access to Awards at the lowest levels," said Jeff Robertson, vice president—SkyMiles. "The changes in our 2015 SkyMiles program will give our members more access to lower priced Award travel, the ability to select a seat on any Delta flight, with no blackout dates and new options such as One-Way Awards and Miles + Cash. All of these changes demonstrate our commitment to making mileage redemption better for every SkyMiles member."

The new SkyMiles U.S. Award chart is available at delta.com/skymiles2015.

With the release of the U.S. Award chart, members can learn even more about Delta's 2015 SkyMiles program including how the new five-tier Award structure will be imple-

mented. The lowest level for SkyMiles Saver Awards will remain at 25,000 miles plus taxes and fees for an Economy Class Award ticket for travel within the U.S. and Canada excluding Hawaii. The introduction of two additional redemption tiers will offer members more price points for Awards and is designed to complement new features such as new One-Way Award tickets which will start as low as 12,500 miles plus taxes and fees within the U.S. and Canada excluding Hawaii and the ability to redeem Miles + Cash Award options. In addition, members will experience significant improvements to award-redemption functionality at delta.com and Delta reservations in 2015.

In 2013, frequent flyers redeemed more than 271 billion miles in the SkyMiles program for more than 11 million Award redemptions.

Delta and the SkyMiles Program

Now in its 33rd year, SkyMiles is one of the longest-running and most successful loyalty programs in the travel industry. Delta is the only major airline that offers elite perks such as unlimited complimentary upgrades, no mileage expiration, no Award fees, a published Diamond Medallion tier and rollover Medallion Qualification Miles. The SkyMiles program offers many ways to redeem frequent flyer miles, including airline tickets on Delta and 28 partner airlines, mileage upgrades, car rentals, hotel stays and Delta Sky Club memberships. For more information on the SkyMiles program, Medallion status and mileage-redemption options, visit delta.com/skymiles. (Delta Air Lines)

In this Wednesday, March 5, 2014 photo, Dr. Joshua Jacobs, orthopedic surgery chief at Rush University Medical Center and president of the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons in Chicago, holds a model of a tri-compartmental total knee replacement.

Flight cancellations take a toll on airline revenue

DALLAS (AP)—Airlines are still tallying up the damage from this winter's storms, but solid demand for travel means they are likely to weather the rocky start to 2014 in good shape.

Reports from some of the airlines point to higher average prices, and executives say spring bookings look strong.

This has been the worst winter for flight cancellations since the government started keeping track more than 25 years ago. The top four airline companies by miles flown—American,

which includes US Airways; United; Delta; and Southwest—have canceled nearly 75,000 flights this year. Snow and ice storms have fouled schedules at big airports in Chicago, Atlanta, the New York City area and elsewhere.

Since Jan. 1, Delta Air Lines Inc. has canceled 17,000 flights. In weaker times for the industry, that might have been devastating, said Ed Bastian, the airline's president. Those cancellations will cut revenue by \$90 million and pretax earnings by \$55 mil-

lion, but Delta still expects to post a record profit for the first quarter, usually the weakest season for airlines, he said.

And for April, the start of the second quarter, revenue per mile for bookings is running well ahead of the April 2013 pace, Bastian added, speaking at a J.P. Morgan investor conference in New York.

United Airlines canceled 23,000 flights due to weather in January and February. About 90 percent were on its United Express regional service, which

will hurt revenue, said United Continental Holdings Inc. Vice Chairman Jim Compton, although he didn't give a figure.

American Airlines Group Inc. said Monday that it had canceled 28,000 flights in January and February, up 164 percent from the same two months last year.

"There's going to be some one-time effect on profitability from canceling that many flights," said CEO Doug Parker. He said the company would offer a dollar estimate in early April.

McDonald's struggles worsened by snow

By CANDICE CHOI and
MICHELLE CHAPMAN
ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK (AP)—McDonald's is fighting to hold onto customers in the U.S. — and all that snow didn't help.

The world's biggest hamburger chain said Monday that sales fell 1.4 percent in February at established U.S. locations. It blamed the harsh winter weather, but conceded that "challenging industry dynamics" also played a role.

After years of outperforming its rivals, McDonald's has been struggling to boost sales as peo-

ple flock to places like Chipotle and Five Guys Burgers and Fries. Those chains have popped up quickly across the country by positioning themselves as a step up from traditional fast food in terms of quality, for a little extra money. They also offer greater customization, meaning diners can dictate exactly what toppings they want.

Executives at McDonald's Corp., based in Oak Brook, Ill., acknowledge Americans' changing demands when it comes to fast food.

"A long time ago, mass appeal had to be mass appeal," Jeff Stratton, the president of

McDonald's USA, said in an interview with The Associated Press last month. "That's not necessarily the case anymore today."

So the company's restaurants are adapting to a world where McDonald's traditional strength—consistency—isn't always enough. For example, McDonald's is rolling out new prep tables that can hold more toppings and sauces, a sign that it plans to give customers greater variety.

In Southern California, the company is even testing a "build-your-own-burger" concept that lets people use tablets to tap out the bread, cheese and

other toppings they want on their burgers. Executives say results are promising so far, but rolling out the offering across its more than 14,000 U.S. locations would require considerable changes to its kitchens.

It would also need the backing of the independent franchisees that own and operate the majority of its restaurants in the U.S.

In the meantime, McDonald's has made other changes to its menu, including the option to get egg whites in breakfast sandwiches, and the addition of chicken McWraps, which are intended to appeal to people who want fresher, healthier food.



LEADING INDICATORS

DOW	S&P	NASDAQ
16,418.68	1,877.17	4,334.45
-34.04	-0.87	-1.77
-0.21%	-0.05%	-0.04%

EXCHANGE RATES

Australian Dollar	0.9615	Hong Kong Dollar	7.7608	Philippine Peso	44.49
British Pound	0.6005	Indian Rupee	60.655	Singapore Dollar	1.2656
Canadian Dollar	1.1118	Indonesian Rupiah	11365	South Korean Won	1064.3
Chinese Yuan	6.1324	Japanese Yen	103.34	Swiss Franc	0.8792
Euro	0.7211	Malaysian Ringgit	3.278	Taiwan Dollar	29.9755
		New Zealand Dollar	1.1767	Thailand Baht	32.31

Nation

Newtown gunman's dad opens up in magazine article

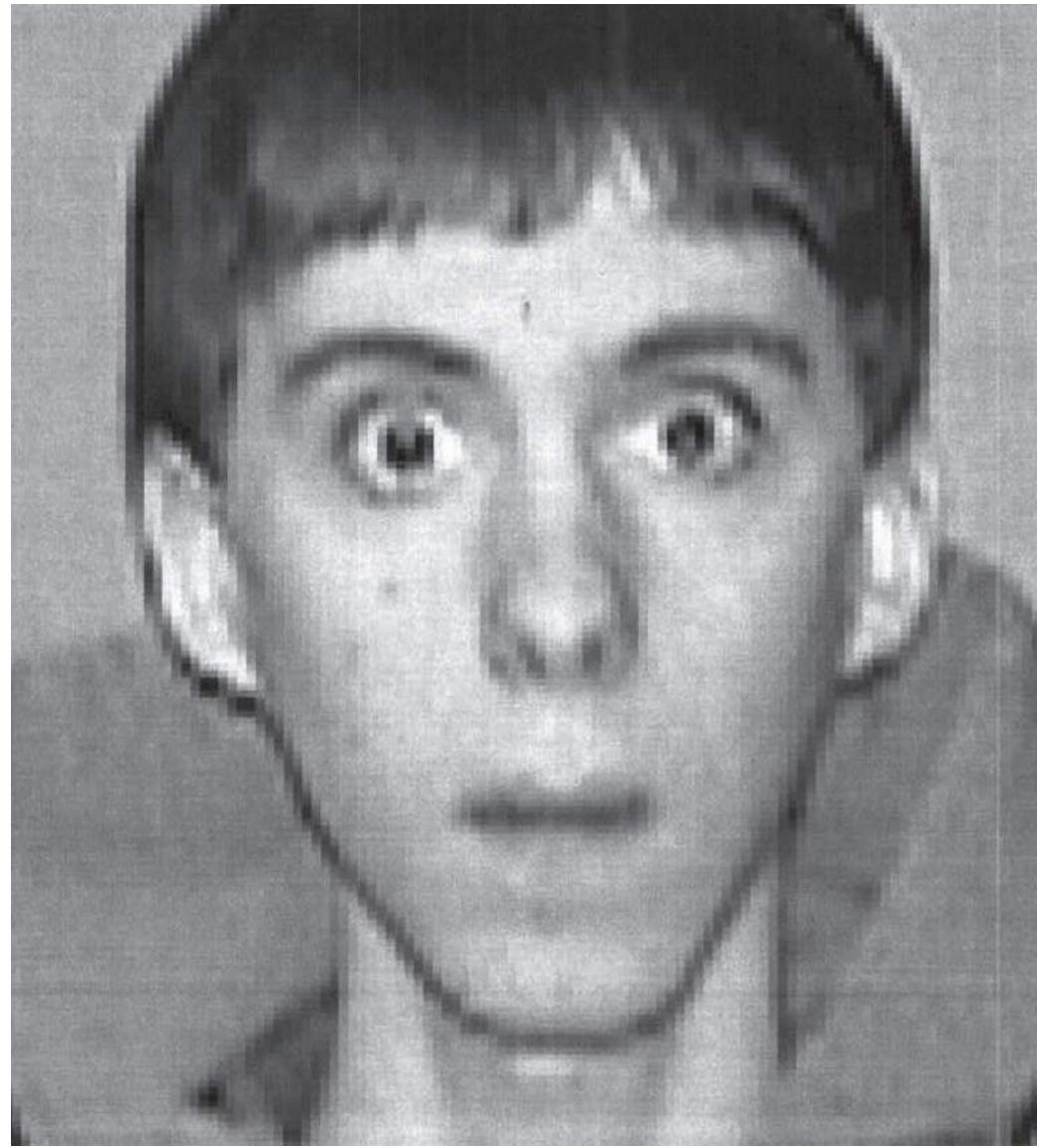
NEW YORK (AP)—In his most extensive comments about the 2012 Connecticut school massacre, the father of gunman Adam Lanza describes his struggle to comprehend what his son did—an act that “couldn’t get any more evil”—and how he now wishes that his son had never been born.

Peter Lanza also told *The New Yorker* magazine in a series of interviews last fall that he believes Adam would have killed him, too, if he had the chance. And he often contemplates what he could have done differently in his relationship with Adam, although he believes the killings couldn’t have been predicted.

“Any variation on what I did and how my relationship was had to be good, because no outcome could be worse,” Peter Lanza told the magazine in an article dated March 17. “You can’t get any more evil. ... How much do I beat up on myself about the fact that he’s my son? A lot.”

He said he hadn’t seen his son in two years when Adam killed 20 first-graders and six educators at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown in December 2012. Adam killed himself as police arrived. He also fatally shot his mother, Nancy, in their Newtown home before going to the school.

The magazine interviews are Peter Lanza’s first public comments since he released a statement the day after the massacre expressing sympathy for the



AP
This undated identification file photo provided Wednesday, April 3, 2013, by Western Connecticut State University in Danbury, Conn., shows former student Adam Lanza, who carried out the shooting massacre at Sandy Hook Elementary School in December 2012. Lanza’s father says in his first public comments about the massacre that what his son did couldn’t “get any more evil” and he wishes his son hadn’t been born.

victims’ families and puzzle-

Peter and Nancy Lanza separated in 2001 and divorced in

2009. He last saw Adam in October 2010 and wanted to main-

Colorado collects \$2M in recreational pot taxes

DENVER (AP)—Colorado made roughly \$2 million in marijuana taxes in January, state revenue officials reported Monday in the world’s first accounting of the recreational pot business.

The tax total reported by the state Department of Revenue indicates \$14.02 million worth of recreational pot was sold from 59 businesses. The state collected roughly \$2.01 million in taxes.

Colorado legalized pot in 2012, but the commercial sale of marijuana didn’t begin until January. Washington state sales begin in coming months.

The pot taxes come from 12.9 percent sales taxes and 15 percent excise taxes. Including licensing fees and taxes from Colorado’s pre-existing medical marijuana industry, the state collected about \$3.5 million from the marijuana industry in January.

That’s a relative drop in the bucket for Colorado’s roughly \$20 billion annual budget, but still a windfall that has numerous interests holding out their hands. By comparison, Colorado made about \$2.7 million in liquor excise taxes in January of last year. Statewide liquor receipts for January 2014 were

not yet available Monday.

Colorado tax officials say the January marijuana reports were in line with expectations, though they repeatedly said before the figures were reported that they couldn’t guess what tax receipts would be.

Monday’s tax release intensified lobbying over how Colorado should spend its pot money. Budget-writers expect the nascent marijuana industry to be extremely volatile for several years, making lawmakers nervous about where to direct the funds.

Gov. John Hickenlooper already has sent the Legislature a detailed \$134 million proposal for spending recreational and medical marijuana money, including new spending on anti-drug messaging to kids and more advertising discouraging driving while high.

State police chiefs have asked for more money, too.

“The whole world wants to belly up to this trough,” said Sen. Pat Steadman, a Denver Democrat who serves on Colorado’s budget-writing Joint Budget Committee.

Other countries also are watching Colorado, which has

the world’s first fully regulated recreational marijuana market. The Netherlands has legal sales of pot but does not allow growing or distribution. Uruguay’s marijuana program is still under development.

“Colorado’s going to help the nation learn what works and what doesn’t,” said Pat Oglesby, a former congressional tax staffer who now studies marijuana’s tax potential at the Chapel Hill, N.C., Center for New Revenue.

Colorado has about 160 state-licensed recreational marijuana stores, though local licensing kept some from opening in January. Only 24 recreational pot shops opened Jan. 1.

Oglesby said Colorado’s pot sales could grow dramatically in future months as new stores open and marijuana sellers pay more wholesale taxes. Marijuana sellers were allowed a one-time tax-free transfer of medical pot inventory to the recreational market, a caveat that depressed January wholesale tax results.

Colorado’s pot revenue picture is further complicated by the state’s unique budget constraints, known as the Taxpayers’ Bill of Rights.

The Bill of Rights not only requires voter approval for tax increases, it limits budget-writers when those taxes earn more than the figure posed to voters. Last year’s pot vote guessed that the taxes would produce \$70 million a year, and it’s unclear what lawmakers can do with tax money that exceeds that figure.

Colorado’s Joint Budget Committee plans a Wednesday briefing with lawyers to lay out their options for spending pot taxes beyond \$70 million.

“There probably is a tendency to want to just grab on to this revenue from marijuana and feed my own pet projects, and I don’t think it’s going to be that simple,” said Sen. Kent Lambert, R-Coloado Springs and another committee member.

Colorado’s 2014-15 budget is under debate now and does not include any anticipated recreational marijuana taxes.

Almost the entire haul from recreational pot came from Denver County, where the industry is concentrated. The second- and third-largest counties for medical marijuana, Boulder and El Paso, had no recreational pot shops operating in January.

Peter Lanza said his and Nancy Lanza’s concerns about Adam increased when he began middle school.

“It was crystal clear something was wrong,” he said. “The social awkwardness, the uncomfortable anxiety, unable to sleep, stress, unable to concentrate, having a hard time learning, the awkward walk, reduced eye contact. You could see the changes occurring.”

After the killings, police investigators discovered that Adam Lanza had written violent stories as a child and later became interested in mass murders.

Peter Lanza believes his son had no affection for him at the time of the shootings.

“With hindsight, I know Adam would have killed me in a heartbeat, if he’d had the chance. I don’t question that for a minute,” he told the magazine.

Peter Lanza said he has searched psychiatric literature on mass killers to try to understand what happened. He was asked how he would feel if he could see his son again.

“Quite honestly, I think that I wouldn’t recognize the person I saw,” he said. “All I could picture is there’d be nothing there, there’d be nothing. Almost, like, ‘Who are you, stranger?’”

He said he wished Adam had never been born.

“That didn’t come right away,” Peter Lanza said about that statement. “That’s not a natural thing, when you’re thinking about your kid. But, God, there’s no question. There can only be one conclusion, when you finally get there. That’s fairly recent, too, but that’s totally where I am.”

ACROSS THE NATION

Judge’s order preserves NSA surveillance records

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—A federal judge in San Francisco stopped the destruction Monday of millions of telephone records collected by the National Security Agency more than five years ago. U.S. District Judge Jeffrey White, who is overseeing an invasion-of-privacy lawsuit against the agency, issued a nationwide order Monday to safeguard evidence until March 19, when he will hold a hearing on extending the deadline further. The secret federal court that approved the agency’s surveillance has required that documents be purged after five years for privacy reasons. On Friday, the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court denied the federal government’s request to keep the records for the sake of pending lawsuits.

Flooding swells Montana rivers, washes out roads

BILLINGS, Mont. (AP)—Swollen rivers and impassable roads left hundreds of people cut off in rural areas of Montana on Monday, while in neighboring Wyoming members of the National Guard joined the fight to protect two towns threatened by high water. Authorities warned the flooding could get worse with more rain and snow expected early Tuesday. Montana Gov. Steve Bullock declared a flood emergency late Monday after forecasters put 30 of the state’s 56 counties under some type of high water warning. Musselshell County in central Montana appeared to be hardest hit: Dirt roads in rural areas turned to mud, some bridges were blocked by high water and the Musselshell River threatened to overcome protective dikes in Roundup.

Asia

Search widens for missing Malaysian passenger jet

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)—Authorities hunting for the missing Malaysia Airlines jetliner expanded their search on land and sea Tuesday, reflecting the difficulties in locating traces of the plane more than three days after it vanished.

Malaysia Airlines said in a statement the western coast of the country, near the Straits of Malacca, was “now the focus” of the hunt. That is on the other side of peninsular Malaysia from where flight 370 was reported missing, meaning if the plane went down there it would have had to fly over the country, presumably undetected.

BEIJING (AP)—Theanguished hours had turned into a day and a half. Fed up with awaiting word on the missing Malaysia Airlines plane, relatives of passengers in Beijing lashed out at the carrier with a handwritten ultimatum and an impromptu news conference.

Faced with an emergency, the airline said it was doing all it could to answer questions about Flight MH370, which disappeared from radar Saturday with 239 people aboard while heading from Kuala Lumpur to Beijing. The uncertainty over the plane’s whereabouts was frustrating relatives, but also hindering the carrier’s ability to respond: It’s difficult to deliver a clear message with so much still unclear.

From a room set aside at a hotel near the Beijing airport, a man with a black shirt emerged with a statement signed by about 100 of the relatives, saying that unless the carrier could give them some clarity, they would take their complaints to the Malaysian Embassy.

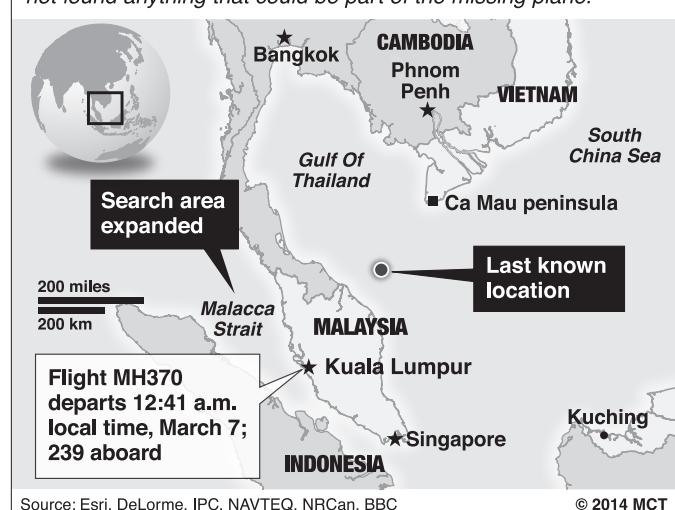


Airport staff move a white board plastered with messages of hope and encouragement to all involved with the missing Malaysia Airlines jet, MH370, at the Kuala Lumpur International Airport, Tuesday, March 11, 2014, in Sepang, Malaysia.

Civil aviation chief Azharuddin Abdul Rahman said the statement didn’t imply authorities believed the plane was off the western coast. “The search is on both sides,” he said.

Widening the search

Investigators looking into Malaysian Airlines flight MH370 have still not found anything that could be part of the missing plane.



Source: Esri, DeLorme, IPC, NAVTEQ, NRCAN, BBC

Man learns diving to look for wife lost in tsunami

TAKENOURA, Japan (AP)—On a chilly morning last weekend, a 57-year-old Japanese man adjusted his diving mask before heading out to sea from the tsunami-hit northeast coast.

Yasuo Takamatsu is learning to scuba dive in hopes of finding the remains of his wife.

As Japan marks the third anniversary of the 2011 tsunami Tuesday, 2,636 people remain missing, their bodies presumably swept out to sea. Another 15,884 have been confirmed dead.

Takamatsu’s wife Yuko was at her office when the magnitude 9.0 earthquake that spawned the tsunami struck offshore at 2:46 p.m. At 3:21 p.m., she sent him an email: “Are you OK? I want to go home.” That was the last time he heard from her. She was 47 when she died, and left a now 23-year-old son and 20-year-old daughter.

“She would have loved to

see her turn 20,” Takamatsu said, referring to Coming-of-Age day, a holiday in January when people reaching 20 during the year celebrate, and women dress in bright kimonos.

Of 13 people who sought refuge on the roof of the two-story bank building, just one survived. Four bodies were found, while the other eight remain missing. Only a handful of buildings have been rebuilt on the periphery of the shellfish-farming town, and a large swath of land remains empty.

“She wrote, ‘I want to go home,’ ” Takamatsu said. “Because I know that, that she feels that way, I want to look for her myself rather than depend on others to do it.”

Last Sunday, he and his instructor dived to a depth of nearly 7 meters (23 feet), spending a little more than one hour in the murky waters over the course of two dives. An old tire

“Of course, I hope her body would show up,” he said. “I suppose it would be her remains by now. I hope I could find something.”

His diving instructor, Masayoshi Takahashi, conducts searches underwater with other volunteers at least twice a month. They still find belongings, and on occasion bones.

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Stolen passports probed in Malaysian plane mystery

PATTAYA, Thailand (AP)—

There was still no trace of the missing Malaysia Airlines plane Tuesday, a day after authorities questioned travel agents at a beach resort in Thailand about two men who boarded the flight with stolen passports, part of a growing international investigation.

Three days after the plane with 239 people on board vanished from radar screens between Malaysia and Vietnam, the search effort by at least 34 aircraft and 40 ships was being widened to a 100-nautical mile (115-mile, 185-kilometer) radius from the point the plane was last detected.

Five passengers who checked in for flight MH370 didn’t board the plane, and their luggage was removed from it, Malaysian authorities said. Malaysian Transport Minister Hishammuddin Hussein said this also was being investigated, but he didn’t say whether this was suspicious.

Two of the passengers were traveling on passports stolen in Thailand and had onward tickets to Europe, but it’s not known whether the two men had anything to do with the plane’s disappearance. Criminals and illegal migrants regularly travel on fake or stolen documents.

Hishammuddin said biometric information and CCTV footage of the men has been shared with Chinese and U.S. intelligence agencies, which were helping with the investigation. Almost two-thirds of the passengers on the flight were from China.

The stolen passports, one belonging to Christian Kozel of Austria and the other to Luigi Maraldi of Italy, were entered into Interpol’s database after they were taken in Thailand in 2012 and 2013, the police organization said.

Electronic booking records

show that one-way tickets with those names were issued Thursday from a travel agency in the beach resort of Pattaya in eastern Thailand. Thai police Col. Supachai Phuykaekam said those reservations were placed with the agency by a second travel agency in Pattaya, Grand Horizon.

Thai police and Interpol officers questioned the owners. Officials at Grand Horizon refused to talk to The Associated Press.

Police Lt. Col. Ratchapong Tia-sood said the travel agency was contacted by an Iranian man known only as “Mr. Ali” to book the tickets for the two men.

“We have to look further into this Mr. Ali’s identity because it’s almost a tradition to use an alias when doing business around here,” he said.

The travel agency’s owner, Benjaporn Krutnait, told The Financial Times she believed Mr. Ali was not connected to terrorism because he had asked for cheapest tickets to Europe and did not specify the Kuala Lumpur to Beijing flight.

Malaysia’s police chief was quoted by local media as saying that one of the two men had been identified — something that could speed up the investigation.

Civil aviation chief Azharuddin Abdul Rahman declined to confirm this, but said they were of “non-Asian” appearance, adding that authorities were looking at the possibility the men were connected to a stolen passport syndicate.

Asked by a reporter what they looked like, he said: “Do you know of a footballer by the name of (Mario) Balotelli? He is an Italian. Do you know how he looks like?” A reporter then asked, “Is he black?” and the aviation chief replied, “Yes.”

ASIAN BRIEFS

Japan: Won’t change apology on forced prostitution

TOKYO (AP)—Japan said Monday it is not planning to change its 1993 apology over a system of forced prostitution for its military during World War II, but will continue to re-examine a study on which it was based. Japan has come under fire from Asian neighbors for setting up a group to verify the accuracy of interviews more than 20 years ago with women who said they worked as sex slaves for Japanese soldiers before and during the war. Historians say tens of thousands of women served as sex slaves, called “comfort women” in Japan. Some Japanese nationalists have long insisted that women in wartime brothels were voluntary prostitutes, not sex slaves.

New Zealanders to vote on changing national flag

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP)—New Zealanders will soon get to vote on whether to change their national flag, which many view as a relic from a colonial past. Prime Minister John Key on Tuesday announced plans to hold a referendum within three years. His political opponents said they would follow through with those plans even if they oust Key in this year’s national elections. The current flag depicts the Southern Cross star constellation and includes Britain’s Union Jack in the top left corner. Many complain it is too similar to Australia’s flag and doesn’t reflect New Zealand’s independence from former colonizer Britain.

World

Russia preparing counterproposals over Ukraine

KIEV, Ukraine (AP)—Russia said Monday it is drafting counterproposals to a U.S. plan for a negotiated solution to the Ukraine crisis, denouncing the new Western-backed government as an unacceptable “fait accompli” and claiming that Russian-leaning parts of the country have been plunged into lawlessness.

The Kremlin moves came as Russian forces strengthened their control over Crimea, less than a week before the strategic region is to hold a contentious referendum on whether to split off and become part of Russia.

In a televised briefing with President Vladimir Putin, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said proposals made by U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry are “not suitable” be-



A man in military fatigues sits atop an armored personnel carrier on the road from Sevastopol to Simferopol, Crimea, Ukraine, Monday, March 10, 2014. AP

Hoping to isolate Russia, US woos China on Ukraine

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Obama administration is stepping up its attempts to court China’s support for isolating Russia over its military intervention in Ukraine.

With official comments from China appearing studiously neutral since the Ukraine crisis began, President Barack Obama spoke to Chinese President Xi Jinping late Sunday in a bid to get Beijing off the fence.

The call was their first known conversation since Russian forces took control of Ukraine’s pro-Moscow Crimea region. It came amid signals that Russian President Vladimir Putin was hardening his position on Crimea, which is due to vote on joining Russia in a referendum this weekend that the U.S. and its allies have vowed not to recognize.

In making his case, Obama appealed to China’s well-known and vehement opposition to outside intervention in other nations’ domestic affairs, according to a White House statement.

However, it remained unclear whether China would side with the U.S. and Europe



or with Moscow, which has accused the West of sparking the crisis in Ukraine with inappropriate “meddling” in the internal affairs of the former Soviet republic. China is a frequent ally of Russia in the U.N. Security Council, where both wield veto power.

In his conversation with Xi, Obama “noted his overriding objective of restoring Ukraine’s sovereignty and territorial integrity

and ensuring the Ukrainian people are able to determine their own future without foreign interference,” the White House said.

It said the two leaders “agreed on the importance of upholding principles of sovereignty and territorial integrity, both in the context of Ukraine and also for the broader functioning of the international system.” They also affirmed their interest in finding a peaceful resolution to the dispute.

Obama’s call to Xi follows a conversation last week between his national security adviser, Susan Rice, and Chinese state counselor Yang Jiechi.

Seeking as broad a coalition as possible, Obama also spoke by phone Monday with the leaders of Spain and Kazakhstan, echoing familiar themes about respect for Ukraine’s sovereignty. The White House said Obama and Spanish Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy praised Ukraine’s new government for showing restraint, while Obama encouraged President Nursultan Nazarbayev of Kazakhstan—one of the largest ex-Soviet nations—to play an active role in finding a peaceful outcome.

Israel displays rockets seized in Red Sea raid

By ARON HELLER
ASSOCIATED PRESS

EILAT, Israel (AP)—Israel’s prime minister on Monday triumphantly toured a display of dozens of rockets that navy commandos intercepted in the Red Sea last week, alleged to be on their way from Iran to the Gaza Strip, and accused the international community of ignoring Iranian support for militant groups and falling victim to a charm offensive by the new leadership in Tehran.

Benjamin Netanyahu’s visit to this Red Sea port capped a six-day PR blitz aimed at persuading world powers to toughen their position in nuclear talks. So far, the international reaction has been subdued, illustrating the uphill battle the Israeli leader faces in his efforts to change the minds of world leaders about Iran’s outreach to the West.

“There are those who would prefer that we not hold this news conference here today, they feel uncomfortable that we show what is really happening inside Iran,” Netanyahu said. He spoke to a backdrop of the captured ship and the Israeli vessels involved in the operation along with the Israeli defense minister.

“Iran, a brutal regime, has not abandoned its deep involvement in terrorism, its systematic efforts to undermine peace and security throughout the Middle East and its ambition to destroy the state of Israel,” Netanyahu said. “What is new is not Iran’s deeds or its lies, but the desire of many in the international community to bury their heads in the sand.”

The tough comments threatened to further strain Netanyahu’s already tense relations with the European Union and the White House.

State Department spokeswoman Jen Psaki told reporters in Washington that the U.S. is concerned about Iran’s support for militants but that it is still focused on resolving the nuclear issue.

“There are remaining concerns we have about their terrorist activities, about - or activities tied to terrorism, including the transfer, of course, of weapons, and—as well as human rights abuses, and we’ll continue to hold them accountable,” she said.

Israel believes that Iran is trying to build a nuclear weapon, saying a nuclear-armed Iran would pose a threat to the existence of the Jewish state, citing Iranian calls for Israel’s destruction, its development of long-range missiles and its support for hostile militant groups on Israel’s borders. Iran denies that it is pursuing weapons technology.

Venezuela unrest plays out daily in posh district

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)—A squad of motorcycle-mounted police wheels into an intersection newly seized from student protesters in a barrage of tear gas in eastern Caracas’ wealthy Chacao district, an important center of resistance to Venezuela’s socialist-led government.

From a side street, a young man in a phosphorescent green hockey mask and a white T-shirt advances, his throwing hand sheathed in a fire-retardant glove for returning tear-gas canisters.

The young man struts and taunts the cops, accompanied by comrades behind a makeshift metal shield with “SOS” painted on it. Gunpowder charges explode near the police. The officers retreat. But the withdrawal is tactical. Seconds later, a different set of motorcycle police in body armor roars uphill into the intersection, giving chase. Star-

cause they take “the situation created by the coup as a starting point,” referring to the ouster of Ukraine’s pro-Kremlin president, Viktor Yanukovych.

Referring to a document he received from Kerry explaining the U.S. view of the situation in Ukraine, Lavrov said: “To be frank, it raises many questions on our side.”

“Everything was stated in terms of allegedly having a conflict between Russia and Ukraine, and in terms of accepting the fait accompli,” he said.

Lavrov said Kerry delayed a visit to Moscow to discuss the situation, and Russia had decided to prepare new proposals of its own, though he did not say what they were.

“We suggested that he come today ... and we were prepared to receive him. He gave his preliminary consent. He then called me on Saturday and said he would like to postpone it for a while,” the minister said.

But in Washington, State Department officials said that it was Russia’s refusal to discuss the American proposals that was hurting prospects for a negotiated solution - in particular, the idea of direct talks between Russian officials and those of the new Ukrainian government.

“We are still awaiting a Russian response to the concrete questions that Secretary Kerry sent Foreign Minister Lavrov on Saturday in this regard,” State Department spokeswoman Jen Psaki said in a statement.

“Secretary Kerry made clear to Foreign Minister Lavrov that he would welcome further discussions focused on how to de-escalate the crisis in Ukraine if and when we see concrete evidence that Russia is prepared to engage on these proposals,” she said.

The statement said Kerry, in weekend discussions with Lavrov, reiterated Washington’s demand that Moscow pull back its troops from Ukraine and end attempts to annex the Crimean peninsula. Kerry also called on Russia to cease what the statement described as “provocative steps” to allow diplomatic talks to continue.

U.S. officials described a series of diplomatic maneuvers between Washington and Moscow over the weekend that initially led to an invitation for Kerry meet with Putin on Monday. The offer expired, however, after the two sides could not quickly agree to a page-and-a-half outline for potential negotiations that, above all, demanded Ukraine’s borders remain intact, according to the officials who were not authorized to be quoted by name.

The U.S. outline did call for ways to address any Russian concerns about the government turnover in Kiev that Moscow is calling a coup, and it introduced the potential for investigations into acts of violence by any party to the conflict, the officials said. Left unsaid, however, was precisely how those concerns might be assuaged, or what government would be tasked with leading such an investigation.

The U.S. outline also called on Russia to pull back from Crimea, both in military force and in influence, to halt the local government there from holding a March 16 vote on whether it should separate from Ukraine, the officials said. It further sought to gain Russian support for placing international monitors in Crimea, allowing the International Monetary Fund to work with Ukraine and backing a May 25 national election set by Kiev.

parrots scatter from a tree.

The police screech to a halt. A metal chain blocks the side street, and the masked youth escapes, while an audience inside an upmarket clothing store stays glued to the plate-glass windows. Officers take down the chain, but as soon as they leave two middle-aged men run out of an office building and stretch it back across the street.

In a month of almost daily street protests, a certain crude choreography between the opposing forces has emerged in this neighborhood that is at ground zero for Venezuela’s worst unrest in more than a decade. Several hundred hard-core young people gather, erect barricades and hurl rocks, bottles and fireworks at police. Officers advance firing tear gas and plastic shotgun pellets to disperse the youths, drawing catcalls from

people in apartment high-rises.

Painted on a wall near Altamira Square, where the protesters gather, is a motto from jailed opposition leader Leopoldo Lopez that they have embraced: “He who tires first, loses.”

The government claims these are all spoiled rich kids. But an informal census suggests hard-core protesters are increasingly from lower-middle-class and poor neighborhoods and are as fed up as anybody with the country’s chronic shortages of staple food items, 56 percent inflation, runaway violent crime and lousy job prospects.

“I can’t go out and protest in my neighborhood,” said Vi Dibrahim Torrealba, a 29-year-old medical student from Catia, a working-class district. Why? Armed pro-government motorcycle gangs won’t allow it, he and others say.

Focus

By GILLIAN WONG
ASSOCIATED PRESS

LILING, China (AP)—The local Chinese official remembers all too clearly the panic he felt in Room 109. He had refused again and again to confess to bribery he says he didn't commit, and his four Communist Party interrogators were forcing his legs farther apart than they could go.

Zhou Wangyan begged them to stop. But the men taunted him and kept pushing.

Then, with a loud "ka-cha," his left thighbone snapped. The sickening crunch reverberated in his mind, nearly drowning out his howls of pain and the frantic pounding of his heart.

"My leg is broken," Zhou told the interrogators. According to Zhou, they ignored his pleas.

Zhou, land bureau director for the city of Liling, was confined in the party's secret detention system at a compound in central Hunan, touted as a model center for anti-corruption efforts. Nobody on the outside could help him, because nobody knew where he was.

In a rare act of public defiance, Zhou and three other party members in Hunan described to The Associated Press the months of abuse they endured less than two years ago, in separate cases, while in detention. Zhou said he was deprived of sleep and food, nearly drowned, whipped with wires and forced to eat excrement. The others reported being turned into human punching bags, strung up by the wrists from high windows, or dragged along the floor, face down, by their feet.

All said they talked to the AP despite the risk of retaliation because they were victims of political vendettas and wanted to expose what had happened. Party representatives contacted by the AP denied the abuses had taken place.

The demands of Zhou and the others reflect a surging tide of expectations in today's China, where an increasingly prosperous, better-educated and more Internet-savvy public is pressuring the party to live by its promises of a fairer society. The same expectations have fuelled anger against rampant graft, and the party has responded with China's biggest anti-corruption campaign in years. Since President Xi Jinping took power in late 2012, the campaign has felled dozens of mid-to-high-level officials and punished thousands of cadres.

However, the party's methods for extracting confessions put its 85 million members and their close associates at risk of abuse through its internal investigation system, which is separate from state justice. While police are legally required to notify the relatives of detained suspects, the party is under no such obligation. And since its powers are unchecked by police, prosecu-

tors and courts, the party can abuse its own members in its own secret jails with impunity, even though torture is banned by its regulations.

It's impossible to tell how rare or common such abuse is. The opaqueness of the system, known as "shuanggui," (SHWANG'-gway) also makes it impossible to tell whether corruption investigations are legitimate, or simply efforts by party members to target rivals or settle scores.

Zhou's account is supported by medical records, statements from prosecutors, reports from party discipline organs and the land bureau, and a statement from police saying they could not investigate the abuse. The AP also corroborated information through interviews with family and friends, four of whom say they were detained and coerced to falsely accuse Zhou of taking bribes, and in two cases abused also.

Some details of his story could not be independently verified. Video surveillance footage from his interrogations has not been released, and a Liling party official named Yi Dingfeng said provincial-level authorities were investigating the case. Local anti-graft officials on a Hunan online forum in February last year denied Zhou was tortured, saying he injured himself by slipping in the bathroom.

Eighteen months after his leg broke, Zhou still limps on crutches.

"My time in shuanggui was tragic and brutal. It was a living hell," he says. "Those 184 days and five hours were not a life lived by a human. It was worse than being a pig or a dog."

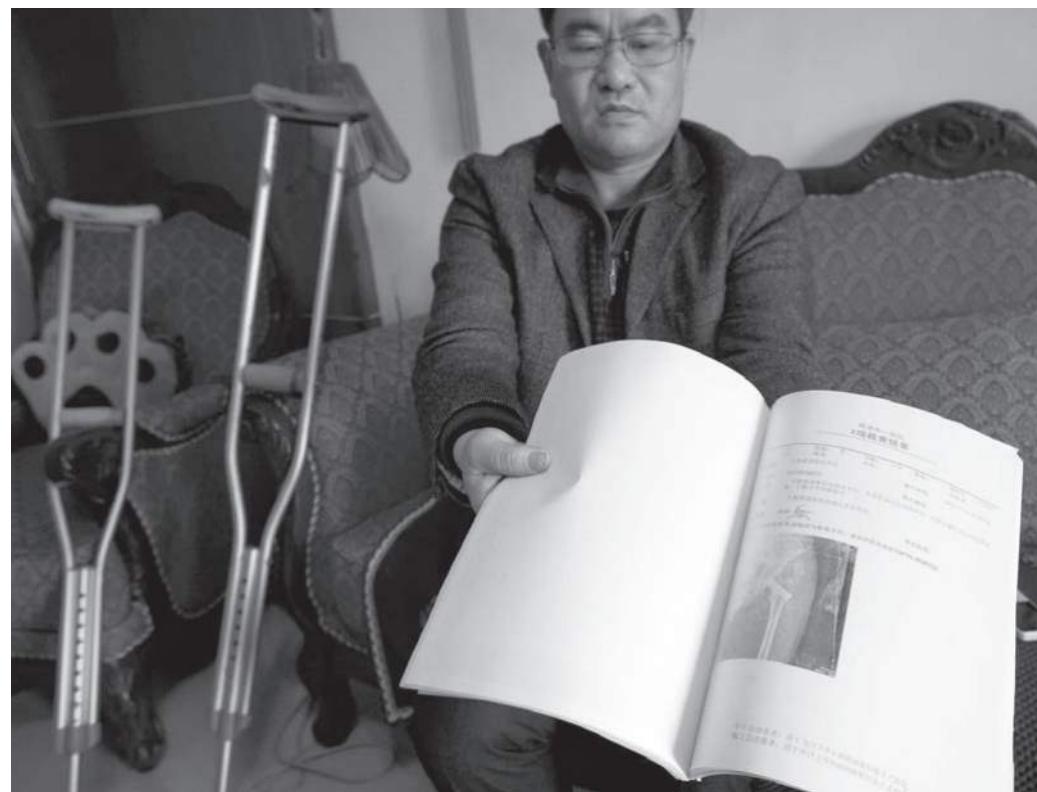
■ ■ ■

The three men from the party's disciplinary arm came for Zhou in his office on a hot summer morning in July 2012.

Zhou, then 47, made two brief calls—one to tell the city's mayor that his deputy would be in charge, and the other to his wife.

"Believe me," he told her, "I'm innocent. The organization is just taking me away to ask me some questions, I'll be back soon."

Zhou trusted the party, as a career official who had slowly climbed out of poverty and up its ranks. In 2007, he was appointed to head the land resources bureau in Liling, a city of about 1 million famous for its porcelain and fireworks. Zhou blames his detention on a local party boss who bore him a grudge, later removed by the



In this Monday, Jan. 20, 2014 photo, Zhou Wangyan, head of the Liling city land resources bureau, shows x-ray images taken after surgery on his leg, which he says was broken by local Communist Party anti-graft investigators, during an interview at his home in Liling in central China's Hunan province. The opaqueness of the "shuanggui" system makes it impossible to tell whether corruption investigations are legitimate, or simply efforts by party members to target rivals or settle scores. AP

In China, brutality yields confessions of graft

party in an investigation without reasons given.

Of course, abuse in detention goes far beyond the party in China, where police use similar methods with anyone from mafia suspects to dissidents. Despite hopes that Xi's administration would be less authoritarian than those before, critics believe he is clamping down even more strongly, with increased detentions of people who push for political change, protest censorship and demand wealth disclosure from officials.

However, little is known or reported, at home or abroad, about mistreatment within the party's own obscure detention system, which runs up against Chinese laws that say only prosecutors and police have the right to arrest or detain people.

The party defines "shuanggui" as an order to its officials to appear at a designated time and place to account for their actions. Experts who study corruption statistics estimate at least several thousand people are secretly detained every year for weeks or months under this system.

Party anti-corruption experts acknowledge that the practice is legally problematic but say it's indispensable in fighting corruption. About 90 percent of major corruption cases involving party members in recent years were cracked through the use of "shuanggui," a party of-

ficial said last month.

Anti-graft authorities investigated 173,000 cases of corruption among members last year, officials say, and at least three people died. In an unusual public prosecution, six party cadres were also sentenced to prison for inflicting harm that led to the death of Yu Qiyi, a state engineer in eastern Wenzhou.

Aside from Zhou, three others told the AP they too had suffered in detention in a 2011-2012 investigation that rounded up 18 people, including non-party family members.

Wang Qiuping, party secretary of an industrial park in Ningyuan, said he was slapped often and forced to stand and kneel for hours during a detention of 313 days. His deputy Xiao Yifei told the AP he was hooded for more than a month and beaten up by an interrogator who went by the nickname "Tang the Butcher." Xiao provided the AP with a receipt from a local party discipline office showing his sister paid 35,000 yuan, or \$5,700, in "violation fees" to secure his release after 208 days. And Fan Qiqing, a contractor, said he was kicked and lashed with a metal whip and wooden plank during his 431-day detention and forced to take hallucinogenic drugs.

A Ningyuan party official who refused to give his name said the investigation involving

all three men was carried out in a "civilized manner" and no one was tortured.

In Liling, Zhou believed he could defend himself during questioning. It was not long before he realized he was wrong.

■ ■ ■

In the first week, Zhou slept barely an hour each night in a hotel because his interrogators stood in a circle and endlessly pushed him back and forth, demanding he confess to accepting 100,000 yuan, or \$16,000, in bribes. One investigator protested the tactic as inhumane and slammed his hand on a table in anger, but he was overruled, Zhou says.

Zhou soon sank to the floor like a pile of mud. The interrogators then rolled him around. He was so dizzy that he saw stars.

They moved him to another hotel and did the same for several days. Then one night, they drove Zhou to Qiaotoubao, or "Bridgehead Fort," on the outskirts of the nearby city of Zhuzhou.

Qiaotoubao looks like any austere government building in China, pale green and nondescript, but for the steel bars across its windows. Since 2010, the Zhuzhou government has conducted regular tours there to warn party cadres against corruption. On an official tour in 2011, Zhou himself had noted the audio and video surveillance in each room and concluded that it seemed like a

safe environment" for detainees.

Qiaotoubao is closed to the public, but the government says it is equipped with electronic surveillance, infrared alarms, intercoms and fingerprint door controls. An exhibition center shows documentaries of corrupt officials expressing repentance, and an electronic display urges members to "let official power operate in the sunshine and within the rules."

Yet it was in Qiaotoubao that Zhou says he faced the worst abuse.

He was shuttled between rooms with padded walls to prevent detainees from harming or killing themselves. His questioners forced him to stand or kneel for hours, punched him and dragged him on the floor by his hair, he says. They made him smoke 10 cigarettes at once with his face near lit coals, stinging his eyes and nose.

Again, an interrogator objected. And again, he was ignored.

■ ■ ■

Zhou's treatment reflects the bind in which the Communist Party in China finds itself.

In a one-party system, it is often party officials who control the courts and police. So the party says it needs its own investigation system, outside the courts and police, to keep its members in check. Yet the very secrecy of this system and the minimal supervision allows abuse.

The party has made efforts to reduce torture by police, close labor camps and curb the use of other informal jails. Its own detention system, however, remains the blackest of black holes.

One reason is a general lack of sympathy for officialdom in China, according to Flora Sapiyo, a legal expert at the Chinese University of Hong Kong who has researched the detention system extensively.

"Among the ordinary people in mainland China, you notice a lack of care towards the fate of Communist Party officials, and the public even seems to be in favor of 'shuanggui,'" Sapiyo says. "These are victims who are screaming, in a sense, yet no one listens to their voice."

Deep inside Qiaotoubao, nobody heard Zhou.

A month after he was taken, he still refused to confess. He knew a confession could mean jail time, the end of his career and disgrace upon his family.

"My daughter cannot have a criminal for a father," he told himself.

The interrogators stepped up the torture, he says. They pressed his face into water in a sink until he thought he was drowning. They whipped his feet until they were bloody, and made him swallow hair from his beard. They slapped his face with shoes and broke four teeth. He was allowed one bowl of rice a day. He fainted several times.

On at least three nights, they

See CHINA on Next Page

Campus Life

Green Meadow 4th grader among top 10 regional spellers



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Aljanah Joan Manabat, fourth from left, poses in this picture as one of the Top 10 finalists at the 2014 Scripps Regional Spelling Bee in Guam on March 8, 2014. Placing 7th among the top 10 spellers, Manabat competed against 56 other elementary and middle school students from various schools from Saipan, Rota, Tinian, Guam and Pohnpei.

White House spearheads efforts to teach students to handle money

By FATIMAH WASEEM
MCCLATCHY WASHINGTON BUREAU

WASHINGTON—Despite a greater need to understand finances—student debt has tripled over the last decade and college tuition continues to rise—most students don't know how to handle their money.

The President's Advisory Council on Financial Capability for Young Americans on Monday recommended addressing that problem by integrating hands-on financial education into curricula as early as pre-kindergarten.

The recommendation emphasizes taking charge of personal finances over learning about financial management, a move that Treasury Secretary Jack Lew said was a strong investment in the country's economic future.

Right now, financial education rarely makes it into most classrooms. And when it does, it's sporadic and random at best, said Amy Rosen, a member of the council who is also the president and CEO of the Network for Teaching Entrepreneurship, a program that teaches entrepreneurship to youths from low-income communities.

Although 17 states require high school students to take courses that teach personal finance, only four—Missouri, Tennessee, Utah and Virginia—require finance-only courses before graduation, according to the non-profit Jump\$tart Coalition for Personal Financial Literacy, whose work is aimed at students.

Only 24 percent of young adults can answer four or five questions on a five-question quiz about basic financial terms, according to a study

released Monday by the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, the largest independent securities regulator in the U.S. A 2011 survey by the brokerage firm Charles Schwab found that although most teens said they were financially responsible, less than 30 percent knew how credit card interest works.

The advisory council, a mix of finance and education experts from the public and private sectors, hopes to adapt successful models from cities and communities that have developed classes, training and workshops. The council also plans to leverage technology to boost access to safe financial services and help families understand the importance of financial education.

It hopes to piggyback on President Barack Obama's pitches for universal pre-K, common learning standards for states and the My Brother's Keeper program, a White House effort to help young black and Hispanic men stay in school and develop careers. Nine foundations have committed \$200 million to the project.

"There is a moment and time here," said Melissa Koide, the deputy assistant secretary for consumer policy at the Treasury Department. "The window for action is shutting."

The lack of financial literacy is a symptom of problems with the overall education system, said Richard Ketchum, a member of the advisory council who is also the chairman and CEO of the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority.

"We've disconnected aspiration from education," he said.

Aljanah Joan Manabat, a 4th grade student of Green Meadow School, placed 7th among the top 10 finalists at the 2014 Scripps Regional Spelling Bee on March 8, 2014, in Guam. Manabat competed against 56 other elementary and middle school (3rd to 8th grades) students from various schools on Saipan, Tinian, Rota, Guam and Pohnpei.

As required by the competition, Green Meadow School

sent another 4th grader, Angeline Norcio, as the alternate speller. Norcio helped Manabat prepare for the competition with spelling practices during the long wait at the airport's departure waiting area and even before bedtime at a hotel in Guam.

The Green Meadow School team almost lost hope of ever being on time at the competition venue when their Cape Air 8:40am March 7, 2014, flight

CHINA

From Page 17

pinned him down and forced him to feces and urine with a spoon. They dubbed the meal "American Western Feast" and "Eight Treasures Porridge."

Most painful of all, they showed him a video of his 22-year-old daughter being detained for 48 hours and interrogated.

His wife, Huang Yimin, visited every official she knew to try and find her husband. She gave one official a package for her husband with a thin wool sweater, milk powder and two traditional mooncakes. None of the items made it to Zhou.

In September, interrogators forced him onto the floor with his back against the wall. Then two of them leaned their weight into his chest while two others forced his legs beyond 180 degrees.

That's when his leg broke. At first, they ignored his pleas to be taken to a hospital, forcing him to stand on his good leg. He knelt down to beg them.

Two weeks later, he had lost all feeling in his leg and started slipping into unconsciousness. Only then, he says, did they let him go to a hospital under the false name of Wang Yan, with the story that he had fallen in the bathroom.

Zhou stayed in the Zhuzhou City No. 1 People's Hospital for just 12 days. Medical records show that upon admission on Sept. 29, his thighs, calves and feet were swollen, his skin red and hot and his left

thigh badly bruised.

Further tests revealed fluid in his thighs, kidney stones, an enlarged liver and swollen lymph nodes on his groin. Scans confirmed that his left thigh had broken into several pieces, and a photo of an X-ray shows that doctors inserted three pins to hold the bone in place.

A week after surgery, Zhou's interrogators had him discharged, he says. They took him back to Room 109. There he lay immobilized on a thin mattress pad on the floor, his left leg in a splint.

His minders gave him a little more food, but continued to show him the video of his daughter's interrogation. Some days, they tried softer tactics, he says. "Old Zhou, you're already disabled. All you need to do is to admit you accepted 100,000 yuan, we will then try our best to get you medical parole," they told him.

He refused.

■ ■ ■

It was three months later, in the winter, when Zhou finally caved. He was worn down by the threats and injuries, and worried about his elderly father's health.

He signed a confession saying he had accepted 40,000 yuan, or \$6,600, in bribes and wrote a resignation letter. He was released in January last year and told that prosecutors would investigate his case further.

An amateur video shot on the day of his release by his family shows a visibly thinner Zhou hobbling out of the building on

to Guam was cancelled. Fortunately, United Airlines was able to send a "rescue flight" that left Saipan with the Green Meadow School team on the evening of the same day.

During one of the breaks, Manabat was asked by her sister and Green Meadow president Mila Merjilla who were in the audience if she's nervous; without hesitation, she gave a clear "no". The competition

did show not just Manabat and her alternate's intelligence and character, but also the hard work, dedication and amount of preparation spent with their very trainer/coach, Liz Espiritu.

Congratulations to Aljanah Joan Manabat, Angeline Norcio, and Liz Espiritu for a great job at the 2014 Scripps Regional Spelling Bee! The whole Green Meadow family is very proud of you. (PR)

also contacted the lawyer.

In November, the party decided that more cases of suspected official corruption should be handed over immediately to the judicial system rather than party investigators, according to Chinese academics who were consulted by the party about the changes. However, experts think the internal decision will have limited impact on the use of secret detention.

A year after Zhou's release, no action has been taken against his interrogators. And despite Zhou's demands, the local anti-graft commission has not released the surveillance video from his time at Qiaotoubao.

Strict censorship rules prevent the Chinese state media from reporting on the case. So Zhou says he is taking the tremendous personal risk of talking to the foreign media.

Since the AP contacted Communist Party officials for comment, Zhou has received two calls warning him not to talk. Wang's wife and his younger brother also got similar calls threatening "consequences" if he talked, and Wang was told he would no longer receive a salary or health insurance.

Zhou still hopes for justice—and to help the party.

"I still believe that the Chinese Communist Party is a good ruling party," Zhou says. "I also believe that not too far in the future, there will be a place in the People's Republic of China in which we can speak freely, a place where my terrible case will receive a fair and just response."

Life & Style

'Burger King baby' now seeks birth mom on Facebook

By MICHAEL RUBINKAM
ASSOCIATED PRESS

In 1986, a newborn wrapped in a red sweater was found abandoned in the bathroom of a fast-food restaurant. Nearly three decades later, the baby is all grown up and looking for her biological mother, and tens of thousands of people are trying to help.

Katheryn Deprill began her quest on March 2 by posting a photo on her Facebook page in which she held up a sign that said, "Looking for my birth mother. ... She abandoned me in the Burger King bathroom only hours old, Allentown PA. Please help me find her by sharing my post."

Deprill, a 27-year-old married mother of three, figured the photo would be reposted by friends, maybe friends of friends. A week later, it's been shared nearly 27,000 times by Facebook users around the world. Deprill's story is rocketing around the media world, too.

But there's still no sign of the mystery woman who left her in a restaurant bathroom.

Deprill, an EMT who lives outside Allentown in South Whitehall Township, said there's so much she wants to tell her birth mom.

"Number one is, I would real-

ly like to say, 'Thank you for not throwing me away, thank you for giving me the gift of life, and look what I've become,'" Deprill said Monday.

She'd like to know her family medical history, as well. And she has so many questions about the circumstances of her birth and abandonment.

"What made her do it? Why did she feel that she shouldn't leave me at a hospital? Was she going through a horrible time?"

Deprill learned about her abandonment as a 12-year-old, when her sixth-grade teacher assigned the class to a project



AP

This March 2, 2014 photo provided by Katheryn Deprill that she posted on Facebook, shows her holding a sign that says she is seeking her birth mother.

'Which (blank) are you?' Online quizzes go viral

By MEGHAN BARR
ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK (AP)—For a compulsive online quiz-taker like Chrissy Noh, the temptation was too great to resist: "Which sandwich are you?"

After answering a series of unscientific, seemingly unrelated questions, which included selecting her favorite doughnut from a lineup of frosted pastries, the New Yorker had her answer (grilled cheese). And she's not the only one who's comparing herself to sandwiches lately.

A recent explosion of silly online personality quizzes, most of them created by the young social media mavens at Buzzfeed.com, has Americans talking about which of the 50 states they really ought to be living in and which Harry Potter character they really are. Buzzfeed says the quizzes are smashing traffic records and generating more Facebook comment threads than any viral posts in the site's history.

Experts say the phenomenon isn't surprising given the age-old fascination with that central question—"Who AM I?"—and a desire to compare ourselves with others in a social media-obsessed society.

On a recent snowy day, the 37-year-old Noh admitted that she and several friends spent the afternoon taking quizzes and texting each other screen shots of the results. "It turned into an all-day group text message fest, where it was just picture after picture of, oh, what rapper are you?" she says, laughing. "What career should you actually have? Which sandwich are you? Which member of One Direction should you marry?"



In this photo provided by Matt Stites via John Egan, John Egan poses with his laptop in Austin, Texas on Friday, February 21, 2014.

aplenty on sites like Zimbio.com, among others. But the recent wave of quiz popularity can be traced directly to Buzzfeed's New York City headquarters, where a team of about 100 content creators have been producing one to five quizzes every single day for the past two months.

The most popular quiz—"Which State Do You Actually Belong In?"—has generated about 41 million page views.

"For our most viral quizzes, the results have to be meaningful in some way," says Summer Burton, BuzzFeed's managing editorial director. "It's not that they are scientific. It's just that what they say means something to people as far as their own identity."

A QUIZ FOR EVERYONE

A scroll through the "QUIZZES" page on Buzzfeed.com reveals a bewildering assortment, many infused with pop culture references. Which celebrity cat are you? Which pop diva? Which "Girls" character? What career should you actually have? Which generation do you actually belong in? What kind of dog would you be?

The intense push to pump out as many quizzes as possible started a couple of months ago after Buzzfeed editors realized that a quiz called "Which 'Grease' Pink Lady are you?" ranked among the most-trafficked posts of 2013. Then, in mid-January, a quiz called "Which city should you actually live in?" went viral, and the whole venture just took off like wildfire, Burton says.

The ability to create a quiz was encoded into Buzzfeed's in-house content management system a little more than a year ago. Essentially any staff member has the autonomy to create one. There are no specific rules regarding quiz-making, but each one follows the same age-old general format: You start with the results and work backward based on general personality traits that go with each answer.

"If you take a 'Parks and Rec' quiz and you get Leslie Knope, then you're very enthusiastic," Burton says. "It's almost like you pick three or four adjectives, and then those kind of go into figuring out what the answers for each question are going to be. And assigning them to a result."

Staff members generate the quiz ideas themselves and create the entire thing on their own, though they do receive an edit and feedback before the quizzes are published.

The trick to creating an addictive personality quiz is similar to the art of writing a good horoscope. It has to be broad and all-encompassing yet make people believe the answer applies to them personally. We

know there's little substance to them, and yet we can't seem to stop taking them.

What makes these online quizzes so alluring is that they can be instantaneously shared with hundreds of friends on Facebook for instant feedback, says Denise Friedman, who teaches psychology at Roanoke College in Salem, Virginia.

"In our age, we're constantly reflecting on who we are, and technology has really changed the way we interact," Friedman says. "I think we are constantly engaging in social comparison and thinking about where we stand."

A WAY TO KILL TIME

John Egan, 50, who lives in Austin, Texas, says he gets sucked into the quizzes partly because he's curious about himself—and because he wonders how his answers will stack up against his Facebook friends'. But the quizzes have little staying power in his brain.

"It's kind of this momentary thrill, if you will, and then you move on. And it's like a shiny object: 'Oh—there's another quiz!'" he said.

The quizzes are overwhelmingly upbeat and lighthearted in nature, a calculated decision by the people engineering them.

"Quizzes are an investment of someone's time," Burton says. "So it feels like it would almost be mean for someone to go through the process of taking the quiz and have it say, 'You're really cynical and negative and nobody likes being around you.'"

And you can take them over and over until you get the answer that validates your own assumptions about yourself. Noh says she may have taken the "Which rapper are you?" quiz quite a few times until she was satisfied with the result.

"I kept getting Eminem, which I was unhappy about," she says. "I was like, 'I really want Kanye, so I'm gonna answer these questions until I get Kanye West.'"

didn't sink in that it was me, that a mother could just lay her baby down and walk away. That is just mind-blowing to me," Deprill said.

She launched her search with the blessing of her parents. In fact, it was her mother who suggested holding up a sign and posting it on social media.

Deprill said she is "definitely not looking to replace my brothers and sister nor my adoptive parents, because I've had the best life. It was the best childhood ever."

"I comprehended it, but it still

In Loving Memory of

Gloria Orfani Maglaya

Born on April 25, 1943 and was called to join her creator on March 2, 2014

Her remains have already been cremated in Quezon City, Philippines on March 8, 2014

In her new life, she now joins her:
Husband: Ernesto Pocelero Maglaya

Her memories will live forever in the hearts of her:

Children:
Beth Maglaya Magnaye and family
Corazon Maglaya Santos and family
Glen Orfani Maglaya and family
Raffie Orfani Maglaya and family
Rhey Orfani Maglaya and family
Kelyn Maglaya Yumul and family

Numerous cousins, nieces, nephews and close friends will also miss her.

To all who have helped us in one way or another, your presence, compassion and generosity will always be remembered.

May God Bless us all!

The Children and Families

George Saunders wins Folio Prize for literature

By JILL LAWLESS
ASSOCIATED PRESS

LONDON (AP)—American writer George Saunders won the 40,000 pound (\$67,000) Folio Prize for literature on Monday with his humorous and disturbing short-story collection “Tenth of December.”

The chair of the judging panel, poet Lavinia Greenlaw, said Saunders’ “darkly playful” stories explore “the hu-

man self under ordinary and extraordinary pressure.”

Saunders beat seven other finalists, including Kent Haruf, Rachel Kushner, Anne Carson and Eimear McBride.

Saunders has won acclaim for his satirically edged short stories, and last week won the Story Prize for short fiction.

His tales place characters with recognizable human emotions in quietly unsettling situations. In one story in “Tenth of Decem-

ber,” a man is used as a guinea pig in unusual drug trials, while another features women trafficked to be human lawn ornaments.

He’s probably best known outside literary circles for a commencement speech to Syracuse University’s class of 2013, whose key message was: “Try to be kinder.” It went viral on the Internet and will soon be published as a book.

Saunders, 55, picked up that theme at the prize ceremony, saying the goal of fiction “is to

develop our ability to be more sympathetic to others.”

He said he had always felt fiction “was about softening the borders between myself and other people.”

“I think in a time like ours, where so much of the public discourse tells us that we are antagonistic, that we’re separate, fiction is a wonderful way to remind ourselves that actually that’s a lie,” he said.

Short stories—sometimes seen

as the novel’s less-glamorous cousin—are experiencing something of a renaissance, with Alice Munro’s Nobel Prize for Literature followed by Saunders’ victory over his long-form competitors.

“It’s like with women’s magazines, when they say, ‘Red is back.’” Saunders said. “When was it gone? But it seems like a nice moment for it.”

The Folio Prize is in its first year and hopes to rival the Booker Prize as the English-

speaking world’s most prestigious literary award. It is open to any book published in Britain in the previous year, which has led some in the U.K. literary world to fear it will become U.S.-dominated.

Five of the eight finalists for this year’s prize were American.

Saunders said Britain shouldn’t be worried.

“I think any country that produces Zadie Smith and Martin Amis—you’re good,” he said.

Detroit gallery looking to sell Banksy artwork

DETROIT (AP)—An art gallery plans to sell a work that the elusive British graffiti artist Banksy created at an abandoned Detroit auto plant, a gallery official said Monday.

Carl Goines, who co-founded the 555 Nonprofit Gallery and Studios, told The Associated Press that proceeds from the sale will go to expand the Detroit gallery’s programming. The sale first was reported by the Motor City Muckraker news website.

Goines said he is hoping the Banksy work will bring in between \$200,000 and \$1.2 million, which he said is the range of recent sales.

An 8-foot (2.4-meter), 1,500-pound (680-kilogram) section of cinderblock wall featuring the stenciled artwork was removed from the Packard

Plant site in 2010. It features a figure of a child holding a bucket of red paint and brush alongside the message: “I remember when all this was trees.”

The mural has been a centerpiece at 555’s space in southwest Detroit, as Banksy is an international figure in street art known for traveling the world and anonymously leaving his signature pieces in public areas.

The decision to sell the prized piece has been met with some criticism, Goines said.

“The response online is pretty volatile, which we knew would come with our going public, but the people on the ground that we work with and support, who understand that it was not an easy choice to make, stand behind 555’s mission to provide sustainable art space for artists and the community,” he said.

Miranda Lambert ‘ready to rock’ as she preps album

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—The good news? Miranda Lambert has completed her much anticipated, though somewhat overdue, fifth album. The bad news? You have to wait until June 3 for “Platinum,” a full two years and eight months since her last LP.

Why the wait? Lambert released an album with her Pistol Annies trio in 2013 and extended her tour. She also decided she was at a place in her career where she’d earned the time to fulfill her entire creative vision, and it simply took time.

“From the day you kinda go I need to start looking for songs and writing songs, it feels like no matter how much time you have, you’re rushed,” Lambert said. “And so I didn’t want to rush it at all. To me it’s all about timing and making sure that you can feel like you can finally sit there and go, OK, the album’s done, and never have a moment where you go, I wish we could change that or I wish we had a different song.”

An early listen reveals the singer’s most ambitious album yet. At 16 songs, “Platinum” sprawls across genre and style and



Lambert

expands on her already adventurous sense of song choice. She says everyone urged

her to trim a few songs and conform to the usual country conventions.

“Now when you listen to it as a whole, what do you take off?” she asked.

The album paints a picture of Lambert’s life as she reaches 30. She wrote or co-wrote eight songs and chose the others based on how they reflected her personality or world view.

The first single, “Automatic,” suggests returning to a slower time and way of thinking. She contemplates her self-image in “Bathroom Mirror,” takes on tabloid scrutiny in “Priscilla” and teams up with several guests on songs that underscore her range and willingness to experiment.

The collaboration with Carrie Underwood on “Something Bad” brings together two of country’s most popular stars.

“We’re really rocking in country music and we’re coming together as a force,” Lambert said. “To me, like, if you’re sitting on the front row, you might want to scoot back. It’s a force. It just feels exciting to me. I’m ready to rock.”

Refurbished Pollock masterpiece goes on display

LOS ANGELES (AP)—“Mural,” the brilliant Jackson Pollock painting that took 20th century American art in a new direction, has re-emerged from seclusion with a stunning facelift that’s given it a brighter look and an even more towering presence than it had before.

The oil-on-canvas masterpiece that measures more than 8 feet (2.4 meters) tall and nearly 20 feet (6.1 meters) long has been under wraps at the J. Paul Getty Museum for more than a year, undergoing an extensive restoration.

Painted in 1943 for wealthy art collector Peggy Guggenheim, it represents a key moment in Pollock’s career in which he began to move from creating more symbolic, regional forms to the abstract expressionism of his “drip” paintings that would both distinguish his career and transform the art world.

“This painting made a cultural shift in a modern artist who redefined art in the 20th century,” Jim Cuno, the J. Paul Getty Trust’s president and CEO, said before museum officials took reporters on a tour of the gallery where the work will hang until June 1.

When visitors to the hilltop museum get their first glimpses



Jackson Pollock’s “Mural,” 1943, as installed at the J. Paul Getty Museum in Los Angeles on Monday, March 10, 2014. AP

of the painting Tuesday, the first

thing they might notice is a far more colorful work than the one that hung for decades in the University of Iowa Museum of Art, which received it as a gift from Guggenheim in 1951.

Restorers painstakingly removed a varnish put in place during a 1973 restoration. Although that restoration likely saved the painting, the varnish substantially dimmed the intensity of its colors, said Yvonne Szafrań, head of paintings con-

servation for the Getty.

As restorers returned the work to its original luster, they were also able to dispel some of the many myths surrounding it. The key one, perhaps, was that Pollock created the masterpiece in one nonstop burst of energy that began on New Year’s Eve 1943 and lasted 24 to 36 hours.

Although the artist told his brother he spent the summer of 1943 working on it, the marathon myth was spread by Guggenheim and Pollock’s wife,

and might have been the result of a misunderstanding.

Restorers noticed that Pollock’s initial paint marks, which cover the whole canvas, were made in four highly diluted colors and they could have been put on in a day, said Tom Learner, head of the Getty Conservation Institute. The other more substantial additions would have taken much longer to dry.

Pollock was only 31, and a relative unknown, when he completed the work. In the

years that followed he would shake up the art world with his “drip paintings” that used house paints that he would pour directly onto canvases placed on the floor.

Although there’s no evidence he placed “Mural” on the floor, and its many brush strokes are obvious, restorers did discover the use of house paint on parts of the canvas. The rest was created with high-quality artists’ oils.

The painting, filled with

colorful, twisting animal-like forms, was described by the artist himself as representing a stampede of animals from the American West.

“We can’t say with certainty that it’s the first known use of house paints by Pollock,” Learner said as he pointed out areas where it was used. “But it’s the earliest known analyzed use.”

When Pollock finished the painting it wouldn’t quite fit into the entryway to Guggenheim’s New York City apartment, so the ends were folded slightly. That prompted rumors it had been cut.

“It definitely wasn’t cut,” Learner said, noting the ends have been restored to view.

After the painting leaves the Getty in June it will go to Iowa’s Sioux City Art Center, where it will be displayed for several months. There are tentative plans to take it on a world tour after that before returning it to Iowa, where a new museum is being built.

To allow people to view a painting of such significance is key to the University of Iowa Museum of Art’s educational mission, said the Iowa museum’s director, Sean O’Harow.

“This is a generation that believes the world is on an iPhone and as long as you see a picture of it, you have experienced the work,” he said Monday. “Well, obviously that’s not case.”

Bieber surprises with performance during SXSW

NEW YORK (AP)—Justin Bieber has kicked off the music portion of South by Southwest before the real program begins.

The 20-year-old pop star surprised a small crowd at Banger's Sausage House & Beer Garden in Austin, Texas, on Sunday night.

Audience member Ashley Gregg said Monday that Bieber performed two songs, dedicating "Boyfriend" to ex-girlfriend Selena Gomez, who was backstage.

"This goes out to my baby girl," Bieber told a crowd of about 100 people.

The bar was hosting an event for Bieber's manager, Scooter Braun. Surprise performers included Bieber and boy band The Wanted. Cody Simpson, Dan + Shay, Tori Kelly and Rixton, who are among Braun's clients, also performed.

The music portion of South by Southwest, which will feature Lady Gaga, Coldplay, Willie Nelson and Kendrick Lamar, starts Tuesday.

Singer Mel Tillis recovering from heart surgery

NASHVILLE, Tennessee (AP)—Country Music Hall of Fame singer Mel Tillis is recovering in Nashville after heart surgery over the weekend.

According to a statement from his daughter, Pam Tillis, the 81-year-old singer required a "routine heart procedure," but



This Sunday, March 9, 2014 photo released courtesy of Op and Buffalo David Bitton shows Justin Bieber performing at the Scooter Braun Projects "Sunday Funday Showcase" at South By Southwest, sponsored by Op and Buffalo David Bitton, in Austin, Texas. AP

is expected to make a full recovery.

"In typical Mel Tillis fashion, he's already cutting up and cracking jokes with the nurses," Tillis said in a statement. Four scheduled shows have been canceled due to his surgery.

Tillis became a successful

songwriter and singer despite dealing with a stutter. He has recorded more than 60 albums, and his hits include "Good Woman Blues," "Coca Cola Cowboy," and "Southern Rain." He's written top songs for George Strait, Ray Price, Bobby Bare, Kenny Rogers and many more.

Aretha Franklin says Obama knows 'R-E-S-P-E-C-T'

NEW YORK (AP)—Aretha Franklin has much R-E-S-P-E-C-T for President Barack Obama—regardless of his spelling skills.

At a White House concert last Thursday, Obama dropped the initial "E" when trying to spell out "respect" as the queen of soul does in her famous song.

"I'm sure the President had much on his agenda and was just a little tired," the 71-year-old singer said in a statement Monday.

The concert included Franklin, Patti LaBelle, Melissa Etheridge, Janelle Monae, Ariana Grande and Jill Scott.

Franklin says no offense was taken.

"The President and I are mutual when it comes to R-E-S-P-E-C-T," she said.



This March 6, 2014 file photo shows President Barack Obama speaking during the "In Performance at the White House: Women of Soul" in the East Room of the White House in Washington, hosted by President Barack Obama, and first lady Michelle Obama. AP

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

New Anne Rice vampire book coming in October

NEW YORK (AP)—Lestat de Lioncourt is back from the dead. Anne Rice's first Vampire Chronicles book since 2003, "Prince Lestat," is scheduled to come out Oct. 28. Publisher Alfred A. Knopf said Monday that Rice discussed the new book at a sales conference last week. Rice also offered details recently on "The Dinner Party Show," an Internet program co-hosted by her son, Christopher Rice. She said the new book will bring Lestat's story up to date and was completed last summer. Knopf says Rice's previous 10 vampire novels have sold more than 20 million copies in the U.S. The first vampire book was called "Interview With the Vampire" and became a movie starring Tom Cruise and Brad Pitt.

Glitches spoil 'True Detective' finale online
NEW YORK (AP)—HBO says its streaming service is running again, although disappointingly late for many anxious fans of the "True Detective" series. Most fans who tried to log onto the "HBO GO" stream for the

Sunday-night season finale of "True Detective" weren't able to do so because the service crashed. HBO said Monday the service interruption was due to "an excessive amount of traffic" soon after the 9 p.m. Eastern start of the episode. Many viewers saw a spinning circle indicating the show was loading, but it didn't. HBO had similar issues with its service last year surrounding episodes of "Game of Thrones." Company spokesman Jeff Cusson said Monday the service is now working.

Lil Boosie: Prison term of the 1,000 songs

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—Rapper Lil Boosie says serving prison time in a Louisiana prison was life changing and it's made him a better person and ultimately, he hopes, a better artist. Lil Boosie, whose real name is Torence Hatch, was released last week from the state's maximum security prison at Angola. On Monday, he held a news conference at a New Orleans hotel to talk about his future. After reacquainting himself with his 7 children, Lil Boosie says he wants to get back into the studio. While imprisoned following a 2009 drug conviction, he says he wrote more than 1,000 songs.

Jude Law, Judi Dench up for Olivier theater awards

LONDON (AP)—Screen stars Jude Law, Tom Hiddleston and Judi Dench saw their stage work rewarded Monday with nominations for Britain's Laurence Olivier theater awards.

Law is a best-actor contender for "Henry V" and Hiddleston for another Shakespeare play, "Coriolanus." Dench is a best-actress nominee for her performance as the real-life inspiration for "Alice in Wonderland" in "Peter and Alice."

Dench is up against Anna Chancellor for "Private Lives," Lesley Manville for "Ghosts"; and Hayley Atwell for "The Pride."

Law and Hiddleston are nominated alongside Henry Goodman for "The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui" and Rory Kinnear for "Othello."

The Olivier awards, Britain's equivalent of Broadway's Tonys, honor achievements in London theater, musicals, dance and opera.

New musical "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory" and Stephen Sondheim revival "Merrily We Roll Along" lead the nominations, announced Monday, with seven apiece. Musicals "Once," "The Book of Mormon" and "The Scottsboro Boys"—all of which originated on Broadway—are nominated in six categories each.

Best new musical nominees are "The Book of Mormon"; "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory"; "Once" and "The Scottsboro Boys."

The new-play category pits George Orwell adaptation "1984" against Lucy Kirkwood's geopolitics drama "Chimerica," Conor McPherson's Irish tale "The Night Alive"; and John Logan's "Peter and Alice."

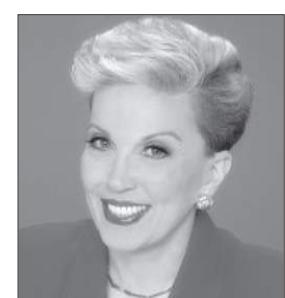
Winners will be announced April 13 during a ceremony at London's Royal Opera House.

Man's last wish is to let his death give others life

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: I work in a palliative care unit in a local hospital, and I'm all too aware of how important it is to have one's end-of-life wishes documented, notarized and on-hand in case of an emergency.

I remember reading an essay that appeared in your column years ago; it eloquently described the desire of the writer that his body be used to allow others to live through organ donation. Is it part of your "Keepers" booklet?



Dear Abby

JYNNA IN NORTH CAROLINA

DEAR JYNNA: Yes, it is included. And I'm printing it for you today because it contains an important message. The author, Robert Test, was not only altruistic, but also the ultimate "recycler."

TO REMEMBER ME

by Robert Test

"At a certain moment a doctor will determine that my brain has ceased to function and that, for all intents and purposes, my life has stopped.

"When that happens, do not attempt to instill artificial life into my body by the use of a machine. And don't call this my 'deathbed.' Call it my 'bed of life,' and let my body be taken from it to help others lead fuller lives.

"Give my sight to a man who has never seen a sunrise, a baby's face or love in the eyes of a woman.

"Give my heart to a person whose own heart has caused nothing but endless days of pain.

"Give my blood to the teenager who has been pulled from the wreckage of his car, so that he might live to see his grandchildren play.

"Give my kidneys to one who depends on a machine to exist from week to week.

"Take my bones, every muscle, every fiber and nerve in my body and find a way to make a crippled child walk.

"Explore every corner of my brain. Take my cells, if necessary, and let them grow so that someday a speechless boy will shout at the crack of a bat and a deaf girl will hear the sound of rain against her windows.

"Burn what is left of me and scatter the ashes to the winds to help the flowers grow.

"If you must bury something, let it be my faults, my weaknesses and all my prejudice against my fellow man.

"Give my soul to God. If by chance you wish to remember me, do it with a kind deed or word to someone who needs you. If you do all I have asked, I will live forever."

Readers, "Keepers" is a collection of favorite letters, poems and essays that have appeared in this column over the years. It was assembled because so many readers said the items were meaningful to them and requested that they be compiled as a booklet. It can be ordered by sending your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price. It covers subjects from temptation to forgiveness, animals, children and human nature. Filled with down-to-earth nuggets of wisdom, both philosophical and witty, it's a quick, easy read, and an inexpensive gift for newlyweds, pet lovers, new parents or anyone recovering from an illness because it covers a wide variety of subjects.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

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ACROSS										DOWN									
1	Mandible	46	High	2	Neighbor-	22	Course	1	Heels,	3	Cry	23	Hack-	25	"Othello"	26	Ripening	27	Pinocchio
4	Small pie	47	often	50	Horse-	4	Deep-	5	Stan-	5	Deep-	6	fried	7	villain	8	additive	9	ploy
8	Portent	51	drawn	56	"— Mis-	23	—	6	stand-	6	Zenith	24	tortilla	26	"Othello"	27	attacker	28	Mop
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14	Tamale	54	Pub order	59	Contra-	26	Hack-	9	—	9	Unto	30	Carry	32	Cherish-	33	Chop	34	—
15	Alternative	60	—	60	dict	27	neyed	10	—	10	whom	34	quarry	35	ed	36	Chop	37	—
16	Third letter	61	Look-	61	A Knight	28	—	11	—	11	to do	35	MPs'	36	—	37	—	38	—
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20	Sock part	64	Table	64	Table	31	—	14	—	14	—	42	Woe	42	—	43	—	44	—
21	Engrossed	65	Solution time: 21 mins.	65	Solution time: 21 mins.	32	—	15	—	15	—	44	Blond	44	—	45	—	46	—
24	Trojan War king	66	CAMP RAGS PAS	66	CAMP RAGS PAS	33	—	16	—	16	—	45	Price	45	—	46	—	47	—
28	Norm	67	OHIO OVAL OBI	67	OHIO OVAL OBI	34	—	17	—	17	—	47	Report	47	—	48	—	49	—
32	Wise one	68	VAHCOPOLOLUG	68	VAHCOPOLOLUG	35	—	18	—	18	—	48	card	48	—	49	—	50	—
33	"Holy mackerel!"	69	KNEW TOOTH	69	KNEW TOOTH	36	—	19	—	19	—	49	notation	49	—	50	—	51	—
34	Ram	70	DAWES ATAN	70	DAWES ATAN	37	—	20	—	20	—	51	Entreaty	51	—	52	—	53	—
36	Solidify	71	ABA1 LIBERALS	71	ABA1 LIBERALS	38	—	21	—	21	—	52	Alluring	52	—	53	—	54	—
37	On	72	FIT DARED IOU	72	FIT DARED IOU	39	—	22	—	22	—	54	Novelist	54	—	55	—	56	—
39	Silicon Valley school	73	TEETERED ISLE	73	TEETERED ISLE	40	—	23	—	23	—	55	Radcliffe	55	—	56	—	57	—
41	"Twilight" heroine	74	ROCK SNFAD	74	ROCK SNFAD	41	—	24	—	24	—	56	"Wham!"	56	—	57	—	58	—
43	Of an epoch	75	LAPEL BARA	75	LAPEL BARA	42	—	25	—	25	—	57	Inventor	57	—	58	—	59	—
44	Computer key	76	EGO APOLOGIZE	76	EGO APOLOGIZE	43	—	26	—	26	—	58	Whitney	58	—	59	—	60	—
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Wade carries Heat late, Miami tops Wizards, 99-90



MIAMI (AP)—LeBron James set the tone pregame. Dwyane Wade took over in the fourth quarter.

And the Miami Heat got a win they desperately wanted.

Wade scored 13 of his 22 points in the final period and led a critical 12-0 run down the stretch, James led all scorers with 23 points and the Heat clinched a playoff spot by beating the Washington Wizards 99-90 on Monday night to snap a three-game losing streak.

"We needed a win," Wade said. "We needed this win."

Chris Bosh scored 22 for the Heat (44-17), who moved within one game of Indiana (46-17) in the race for the No. 1 seed in the Eastern Conference and 1 1/2 games behind San Antonio (46-16) for the league's best record. Ray Allen added 13 for Miami, which was coming off a trip where it lost at Houston, San Antonio and Chicago, the last of those coming in a late collapse on Sunday.

Wade hasn't typically played back-to-backs this season. He did this time, and the Heat simply rolled with him in the final minutes on the way to avoiding what would have been their first four-game slide since 2011.

"He made the right plays," James said.

Bradley Beal scored 18 points, Martell Webster added 17 and Drew Gooden scored 15 for the Wizards. Marcin Gortat finished with 14 points and a career-high-tying 18 rebounds - 10 of them in the first quarter alone.

John Wall finished with eight assists for Washington.

"I'm proud of our guys," Wizards coach Randy Wittman said. "They kept battling, working. We didn't shoot it the way we're capable of. We got some good looks. We shared the ball. We attacked the whole game."

Washington led 84-83 midway through the fourth, when Wade took over.

A three-point play put Miami ahead to stay and he then had assists on Miami's next three baskets—a short jumper and then a 3-pointer from Bosh, then a layup by James. Wade capped the run with a score of his own, on the way to his first 13-point, three-assist fourth quarter since Feb. 18, 2009. His 13 in the fourth marked his highest-scoring quarter this season, and came with him playing consecutive days for the first time since Jan. 4 and 5. It was only the third time all season he's appeared in both nights of a back-to-back.

Both teams shot only nine free throws; despite being in attack mode, James didn't shoot one for the second straight game, just the second time that's happened in his career, the first coming in December 2003, early in his rookie season. "Very surprised," James said.

James went scoreless for a stretch of nearly 15 minutes in the first half, and still easily led everyone with 19 points by intermission. The entirety of his first-half scoring came in two impressive spurts - three 3-pointers in as many tries over a span of 2:43 early in the game, then 10 straight Heat points in a stretch of 3:23 late in the half.

"I felt good about this game the minute, the second I saw LeBron come into the gym today," Heat coach Erik Spoelstra said. "We had an early walk-through and he ran in the gym. Came up to every single person, player and coach and shook everybody's hand and said, 'Let's go. Let's get ready for this game.' That's what leaders do."

Miami's lead was 12 early in the third before Washington went on a 10-0 run, with Gortat scoring the first eight and Trevor Booker's jumper getting the Wizards within 59-57. And after Miami rebuilt the lead to seven, Washington took off on another quick burst, this one enough to give the Wizards their first lead since 1-0.

In less than 2 minutes, Washington outscored Miami 11-0, Webster scoring six in 25 seconds. He head-faked James in the air to start what became a four-point play, then had an alley-oop dunk off a Wall pass on the next possession as Washington took a 65-64 lead.

"I think we match up with those guys perfect," Wall said. "We battle those guys."

Allen had two 3's for the Heat late in the third, and it was 73-all entering the fourth. The Wizards scored only 17 points in the final 12 minutes.

"We saw a few things," Wade said, "and we were able to take advantage."

Knicks 123, 76ers 110

In New York, Tim Hardaway Jr. scored 28 points as the New York Knicks defeated Philadelphia, sending the 76ers to their 17th straight loss.

Amare Stoudemire added 23 points, and J.R. Smith and



Miami Heat's Dwyane Wade (3) blocks a shot by Washington Wizards' Marcin Gortat (4) during the first half of an NBA basketball game in Miami, Monday, March 10, 2014.

Carmelo Anthony each had 22 as the Knicks won their fourth game in a row.

Michael Carter-Williams recorded a triple-double with 23 points, 13 rebounds and 10 assists, while Tony Wroten also had 23 points for the struggling 76ers.

The Knicks, who trailed by 12 points in the first quarter, took their biggest lead of the

game, 110-89, on the fourth of Hardaway Jr.'s five 3-pointers with 7:37 left and never led by less than 12 the rest of the way.

Clippers 112, Suns 105

In Los Angeles, Blake Griffin scored 22 of his 37 points in the first quarter and made 14 of 16 shots before fouling out as the Clippers won their eighth straight.

Darren Collison scored 20 points and Chris Paul added 17 points and 11 assists for the Pacific Division leaders, who were 55.1 percent from the field and improved to 23-1 when shooting at least 50 percent.

Goran Dragic had 23 points and five assists during a foul-plagued 33 minutes for the Suns, who slipped a half-game behind idle Memphis for the eighth and final Western Conference playoff spot and are 1 1/2 behind Dallas. Phoenix hasn't made the postseason since 2010 under coach Alvin Gentry, now a Clippers associate head coach.

Bobcats 105, Nuggets 98

In Charlotte, North Carolina, Al Jefferson scored 26 points and Kemba Walker added 24 as Charlotte won its seventh straight at home.

Jefferson made 10 of his first 14 field-goal attempts and also had a game-high 12 rebounds. Walker added seven assists for the Bobcats, who also received a big boost from Gary Neal off the bench. Neal made his first six field-goal tries, including three 3-pointers, and ended up with 19 points.

Josh McRoberts added 15 points for Charlotte, including a key 3-pointer with 6:15 left at the shot-clock buzzer to extend Charlotte's lead to 90-82 after Denver had cut it to five at 87-82.

Ty Lawson scored 24 points to lead the Nuggets.

Bucks 105, Magic 98

In Milwaukee, Brandon Knight scored 24 points and sparked Milwaukee's rousing rally from an 18-point deficit with a dunk.

Knight confounded Orlando with a quick first step and threw down a dunk for a 74-71 lead with 10:57 left after Ramon Sessions went high for an outlet pass in the lane and patted the ball back to his driving back-court mate.

The lead swelled to 95-81 with 2:49 left before Orlando mounted its own late charge to get within three off a 3 from Ja-

meer Nelson with 35 seconds left.

But the Bucks hit their foul shots late and Orlando was hurt after Nikola Vucevic was whistled for an offensive foul with 22 seconds left.

Nets 101, Raptors 97

In New York, Deron Williams and Shaun Livingston each scored 18 points and an ailing Paul Pierce hit a 3-pointer with 1:14 remaining to lead Brooklyn past Atlantic Division-leading Toronto.

Pierce finished with 15 points and Joe Johnson added 14 for the Nets, who won their season-high eighth straight at home. Brooklyn moved three games behind Toronto in the Atlantic.

Kyle Lowry scored 21 points to lead Toronto, which had won nine of its previous 11.

The Nets trailed 94-92 after Lowry split the defense in the lane for a lay-up with 2:15 left.

Brooklyn then answered with five straight points as Andray Blatche's reverse lay-up tied the score at 94 and Pierce followed with a 3-pointer.

Hawks 112, Jazz 110

In Salt Lake City, Kyle Korver scored 26 points and Paul Millsap added 23 to help Atlanta outlast Utah to snap a six-game losing streak.

Jeff Teague had 14 points and the Hawks used a late 16-4 run to end a 10-game road skid and salvage a win at the end of a gloomy six-game road trip.

The Jazz led 96-93 after Trey Burke's 3-pointer, but Korver started an 8-0 run with a 3-pointer and then a contested jumper to beat the shot clock. Trey Burke made a layup before Millsap countered with two free throws and Korver added two of his own.

Trailing 109-100 with 26 seconds left, the Jazz made it interesting with 10 points in the last 16 seconds.

Burke scored 23 points and Marvin Williams had 18 for the Jazz, who have lost six of their last seven.

Jackson 'leaning' toward accepting Knicks' front-office job offer

Hall of Fame coach Phil Jackson is "leaning" toward accepting a front-office job with the Knicks, according to multiple reports.

ESPN.com reported Saturday that Jackson would be installed as team president and that he would have final say over basketball decisions.

Meanwhile, CBSSports.com reported that Jackson is "seriously considering" a position with the Knicks but that the front office must be structured to his liking. One possible formation: Knicks president and GM Steve Mills and assistant GM Allan Houston would be in charge of day-to-day operations and report to Jackson.

New York is in the midst of a disastrous season. The Knicks are 24-40 record, 3 1/2 games out of a playoff spot in the Eastern Conference. All-Star forward

These developments come one day after the New York Daily News reported that Jackson was offered an unspecific front-office position after meeting recently with Madison Square Garden chairman James Dolan. It was previously reported that Mills met with Jackson to discuss the team's head-coaching job, which Jackson wasn't interested in filling.

Dolan tabbed Mills as New York's president and general manager in December, displacing former GM Glen Grunwald.

New York is in the midst of a disastrous season. The Knicks are 24-40 record, 3 1/2 games out of a playoff spot in the Eastern Conference. All-Star forward

Carmelo Anthony can become a free agent this summer, representing a top agenda item for whomever is calling the shots.

Earlier this month, the 68-year-old Jackson hinted that he was interested in returning to work and said that he has had "conversations" about getting back in the league.

"There are winners and losers in the NBA, and a lot of people are trying to reclaim their position or change their culture or whatever," Jackson told USA Today Sports. "So yeah, there is [opportunity]. I've had conversations. Some of them are feelers. 'Are you interested?' type of thing."

Those discussions stretch

back to last year, when Jackson confirmed that he had discussed a potential front-office role with a number of organizations. Jackson served as a consultant for the Pistons during their recent coaching search, which ended with the hiring of Maurice Cheeks, who has since been fired. He was also briefly linked to the Raptors as a possible front-office candidate and he was also mentioned in rumors related to the Blazers and the Kings, had they relocated to Seattle.

In 20 years as a coach with the Bulls and Lakers, Jackson went 1,155-485 (.704). He ranks fifth all time in regular-season victories and he never missed the

playoffs, winning six titles with the Bulls and five more with the Lakers. Jackson ranks first in postseason victories (229) and winning percentage (.688, 229-104).

Since retiring in 2011, Jackson has said the possibility of a return to coaching is "slim and none" and that he was "kidding himself" if he thought he would return to the bench.

Jackson was drafted by the Knicks in 1967 and spent 10 seasons with the franchise. New York won titles in 1970 and 1973, but Jackson was sidelined with a back injury during the first championship season. (www.si.com)

Pistorius vomits during graphic testimony

By CHRISTOPHER TORCHIA and
GERALD IMRAY
ASSOCIATED PRESS

PRETORIA, South Africa (AP)—Hunched over, vomiting into a bucket by his feet and retching loudly, Oscar Pistorius was vividly reminded at his murder trial Monday of the gruesome injuries he inflicted on his girlfriend when a pathologist described how the Olympian fatally shot her multiple times with bullets designed to cause maximum damage.

The testimony by Prof. Gert Saayman, who performed the autopsy on Reeva Steenkamp's body, was so graphic that it was not broadcast or reported live on social media by journalists under an order from Judge Thokozile Masipa.

Saayman methodically listed the extent of the three main gunshot wounds Steenkamp suffered on Valentine's Day last year when she was shot by the double-amputee runner in the right side of the head, the right hip and the right arm through a toilet cubicle door.

The pathologist said Steenkamp, 29, was hit by special Black Talon bullets and that the head shot from Pistorius' 9 mm pistol was probably almost instantly fatal, causing brain damage and multiple fractures to her skull.

Bent over while sitting on a wooden bench, Pistorius vomited when Saayman reached his right hand up toward the right side of his own head to show the entrance and exit wounds in Steenkamp's skull.

Masipa briefly halted the testimony to ask chief defense lawyer Barry Roux to attend to



Oscar Pistorius blows his nose after retching for a bucket as he listened to cross questioning about the events surrounding the shooting death of his girlfriend Reeva Steenkamp, in his second week in court during his trial in Pretoria, South Africa, Monday, March 10, 2014. AP

his client. The judge later asked whether Pistorius was able to understand the proceedings as he sat with hands clasped over his ears, his body heaving.

"Is your client fine?" the judge asked Roux.

Roux replied: "It's not going to be fine."

Roux said Pistorius' reaction was not going to change. A dark bucket with a handle was placed at his feet.

Pistorius vomited at least two other times and cried. He is charged with premeditated murder for killing Steenkamp and could face up to life in prison if convicted.

The prosecution contends the shooting followed a loud argument between the couple.

ple. The defense maintains that he shot her by mistake, thinking she was an intruder.

Through the sounds of Pistorius retching in the dock, the pathologist testified that he was able to identify the ammunition from a bullet fragment lodged at the bottom of Steenkamp's skull. The bullets were designed to expand on impact and cause severe damage.

The hip and arm wounds were also severe, and the right arm was broken, the pathologist said, adding that any of the three gunshot wounds in isolation could have been fatal.

Saayman stood through his testimony to indicate the location of Steenkamp's bullet wounds

by touching his hand to his own head, arm and hip. He noted that Steenkamp also had a wound on her left hand, possibly from a bullet, and described abrasions and smaller injuries caused by splinters, which he said were consistent with bullets fired through a wooden object.

Away from the courthouse, JC de Klerk, a forensic ballistic specialist who used to work for the South African police, agreed with Saayman that the headshot likely killed Steenkamp immediately.

"If the doctor found a Black Talon bullet inside her head ... she would have died, I would say, not in seconds but in milliseconds," de Klerk told The Associated Press in a telephone interview.

De Klerk said the bullets were rare in South Africa and designed to cause "excessive wounds."

The detailed evidence regarding the injuries is important because, for one, Pistorius has claimed that Steenkamp was slumped over but alive when he eventually reached her after

Jets release Santonio Holmes after 4 seasons



NEW YORK (AP)—Tone Time is over for the New York Jets.

The Jets parted ways with wide receiver Santonio Holmes on Monday, cutting the talented but injury-plagued playmaker after four seasons.

The move, which had been expected, saves the Jets \$8.25 million, which Holmes was due to make as his base salary this season. He was also scheduled to have a \$10.75 million cap number, a lofty total for a one-time Super Bowl MVP who has struggled with injuries and inconsistency the last two seasons.

The Jets also released cornerback Antonio Cromartie on Sunday, clearing \$17.75 million of salary cap space before the NFL's free agency period starts Tuesday. New York could also save another \$8.3 million if they cut quarterback Mark Sanchez, who missed last season with a shoulder injury.

Holmes, who turned 30 last Monday, had 23 catches—the second-lowest total of his

career—for 456 yards and a touchdown in 11 games last season. He missed five games midway through the season with a hamstring injury. Holmes played in just four games in 2012 and was sidelined for several months after suffering a career-threatening foot injury.

In December, Holmes said he would be willing to restructure his contract to remain a member of the Jets, adding that how much of a pay cut he'd be asked to take probably wouldn't play into his decision to want to stay.

"I appreciate Tone's contributions over the last four seasons," coach Rex Ryan said in a statement. "I've always admired his knack for making the clutch play. He's a tremendous competitor who wants the ball in his hands when the game is on the line. I wish him nothing but the best."

Holmes signed a five-year, \$45 million deal before the 2011 season after a solid first year with the Jets, who acquired him from Pittsburgh

for a fifth-round draft pick. He agreed to restructure his contract in March 2012, when he took a \$3.5 million cut to his scheduled base salary of \$11 million for last season.

Holmes was a controversial figure at times during his tenure with the Jets, butting heads with Sanchez and the team's offensive linemen during the 2011 season. In the season finale at Miami, he got into an argument with offensive tackle Wayne Hunter in the huddle and was benched for the rest of the game.

The mercurial wide receiver also had a contentious relationship with the media, keeping his answers short during most group interviews. He inadvertently made headlines last season when he called Carolina's secondary the Panthers defense's "weakest link" while trying to credit the unit—but providing bulletin board for an opponent that went out and beat the Jets 30-20.

Holmes was a first-round draft pick by the Steelers out of Ohio State in 2006 and was se-

lected the Super Bowl MVP in his third season after he caught a 6-yard touchdown pass from Ben Roethlisberger with 35 seconds left to lead Pittsburgh past Arizona.

He had his best statistical performance the following season with 79 catches for 1,248 yards and five touchdowns. But Holmes was traded to the Jets the following offseason after the Steelers tired of his numerous legal troubles.

Holmes was suspended for his first four games with the Jets for violating the NFL's substance abuse policy, but quickly became one of the team's primary playmakers when he returned. He played a key role in three straight wins with big catches late in games, prompting Ryan to label those types of clutch moments as "Tone Time."

He also helped lead the Jets to their second straight AFC title game appearance, in which they lost to Holmes' former team.

Holmes has 381 career catches for 5,963 yards and 36 touchdowns in eight NFL seasons.

shooting her in error thinking she was a dangerous intruder.

That appears unlikely given Saayman's testimony, but the pathologist did note that sometimes it takes a little time for a person's heart to stop after a devastating head injury.

But his testimony also could harm the prosecution's claims that Steenkamp screamed during the shooting, unless prosecutors can show that the head shot was the last one to hit her.

Saayman also said that judging by the food contents in her stomach, Steenkamp probably last ate no more than two hours before her death. Steenkamp was shot after 3 a.m., meaning she must have eaten after 1 a.m. That hinted at another possible wrinkle in Pistorius' account because he claims the couple was in the bedroom by 10 p.m.

Pistorius' defense team has indicated it will submit its own autopsy report to support his claim that the killing was a tragic accident.

If convicted on the murder charge, Pistorius, 27, could be sent to prison for at least 25 years before the chance of parole, the minimum time someone must serve if given a life sentence in South Africa. The judge will ultimately deliver the verdict and decide on any sentence. South Africa has no trial by jury.

Bonds back in Giants uniform as camp coach

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. (AP)—Barry Bonds certainly thinks he's worthy of election to the Hall of Fame.

"Without a doubt," baseball's home run king said Monday at the San Francisco Giants' spring training camp, where he will serve as a hitting instructor for a week.

The 49-year-old Bonds spent his last 15 big league seasons with San Francisco, finishing in 2007 with 762 homers.

But his final years were clouded by suspicions of performance-enhancing drug use, and the seven-time NL MVP was convicted of one obstruction count in April 2011 by a jury that found an answer he gave was criminally evasive during 2003 testimony before a grand jury investigating the distribution of PEDs. And he didn't even come close to election to the Hall in his first two turns on the ballot.

Advice for the writers who have not voted for him: "You guys are all adults. I have no advice for you."

One topic he wouldn't discuss: Alex Rodriguez, who is serving a season-long drug suspension.

Bonds said he respects Rodriguez and will talk to him individually, "not in a press conference."

Meeting with about three dozen media for about 30 min-

utes on a patio overlooking the left field area at Scottsdale Stadium, Bonds wanted to put the controversial past behind him.

"It feels really good to be back," Bonds said. "It feels good to give back to the game that I love. Hopefully, I'll be a part of this longer ... I'm enjoying it."

"I am more nervous at this than I was playing, because it was only my mind and me. Hopefully I can bring good value to the ballclub. We'll see how it works out," he added. "I don't even know if I'm good at it."

Looking about 30 pounds lighter than his playing weight of 230 and considerably more affable, Bonds wore an orange-and-black Giants cap, a black windbreaker and baseball pants, ready for the first day of work in a seven-day stay in camp.

He appeared relaxed, laughing and joking more in a few minutes than he did during the years when he ruled the team's clubhouse from his corner reclining chair.

"I'm just a different character. I was a different character playing," he said. "Now I've had time to slow down, do other things. I needed that guy to play, it's who I was at the time. I'm the same person, just a different character. ... Teammates used to say, you don't play when you're nice. It worked. Whatever it was, it worked."

After meeting with the media, Bonds watched Posey and others intently in the batting cage.

CNMI to get \$15.7K from Handball federation



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CNMI Handball Federation president Joann Aquino, right, receives a certificate from the International Handball Federation as one of the associate members of the group during the 34th Ordinary Congress in 2013.

CNMI Handball Federation president Joann Aquino announced that the International Handball Federation has included the CNMI in its Development Aid Program.

Aquino, who is the Saipan Mayor's Office's home-stay program coordinator, said the program will donate \$5,700 per annum to purchase sports material and \$10,000 as administra-

tive costs start up.

The CNMI Handball Federation will implement the IHF's Handball at School programs throughout the public and private schools in the CNMI as an initiative called "Fun, Passion and Health." Handball could be played outdoors, indoors, and on the beach.

Aquino said the program will target two course levels. Level

1 will be for physical education teachers to teach handball to children between the ages of 5 to 11 years and Level 2 will focus on age group 12 to 17 years.

On Sept. 13, 2013, Aquino along with Danny Aquino, vice president of the CNMI Handball Federation, received a special invitation from the president of the Guam National Olympic Committee, Ricardo Blas, to at-

United got its first goal from Karleen Reyes in the first 45 minutes of play and the second in the last frame from Gilliam Villagomez.

BOYS U15 Paire FC 5, Shirley's FC 0

In last Saturday's boys U15 game at the Oleai Sports Complex Field, Paire shut out Shirley's FC.

Ivan Seo led Paire's win, as he bagged two goals. Logan Mister, Saixian Bascic, and Allen Hinson chipped in one

piece. Seo put Paire in the board early with his goal in the third minute, while Mister gave the team a 2-0 edge after hitting his target in the 20th. Paire then closed out the half with a 3-0 advantage after Bascic scored in the 25th and started the second with back-to-back goals from Seo and Hinson.

In the other boys U15 game last Friday, MP United edged Matansa, 1-0.

Michael Lee drilled the lone goal in the match, as he scored in the 24th minute.

quick strike outs, followed by a 5-3 putout play on Jeff Dela Cruz.

Earlier at the bottom of the eighth, Dela Cruz stole home to send the neck-and-neck match to the second extra inning. Lifofoi also scored at the top of the eighth off Juan Quituaga's double. Lifofoi's run ended the Braves' silence in the last two regular innings. Last year's finalists were also on a slump in the first four innings, failing to score against Enforcers starting pitcher Darion Jones, who struck out five batters and stranded two runners in that stretch to help his team build a 5-0 lead.

The Enforcers went ahead

on a sacrifice fly and passed ball in the second inning, and RBI singles from Fred Songao and Peyton Lizama and an RBI triple from Jones in the fourth inning. Jones continued to man the mound for the Enforcers in the fifth inning, but this time he was hittable. The Braves' first two batters made it home off Tenorio's RBI triple and an Enforcers' error at left field, while Angel Palacios stole home to spark a comeback. Lifofoi then helped the Braves equalized, 5-5, with his two-run single.

The game remained in a deadlock and went into extra innings, as the Enforcers went cold in the last three innings, while the Braves failed to hit the

tend the IHG Oceania Region Meeting from Sept. 27 to Sep. 29 to establish a local body for the sport of Handball. Representatives from the Federated States of Micronesia, Palau, the Marshall Islands, Kiribati, Papau New Guinea, American Samoa, Guam, and the CNMI were present to meet with representative Hristo Boskoski Taki.

Registration deadline for Saipan Marathon on March 14

Organizers reminded all runners that this Friday, March 14, at 5pm is the deadline to register for the 9th Saipan Marathon slated for April 19, 2014.

Registration for the 50K and marathon is \$65 for U.S. and NMI participants, and \$55 for half-marathon and 10K participants. Registration will include the awards banquet, a finishers T-shirt, and a certificate of completion.

"Saipan Marathon has grown to become the largest annual race in the Northern Marianas, and we continue to work to ensure the professionalism of the event," said Marianas Visitors

Another official invitation on Oct. 10, 2013, was given to Aquino from the IHF to attend the 34th Ordinary Congress of the IHF, which organizes every two years and was held at Ritz Carlton Hotel Doha in Qatar from Oct. 25 to Oct. 28.

The Handball in School programs was initiated by IHF president Dr. Hasan Moustafa in 2010 and the first interna-

tional sports federation to implement this kind of project. To date, a total of 35 courses have been conducted on all five continents with more than 3,000 participants.

IHF is comprised of 190 member federations as of 2013. Countries from Asia, Africa, Europe, Oceania, and Pan America make up the federation. (Jayson Camacho)

Registration deadline for Saipan Marathon on March 14

The race start will take place at Micro Beach at American Memorial Park at 4:30am for the 50K and the Marathon, at 5:45am for the half-marathon, and at 6am for the 10K. This year the marathon will implement a cut-off time for both the full marathon and 50K. The cut-off time will be 9am at the halfway point.

All competitors are required to pick up their race packets the AMP Amphitheatre on April 18, 2014, from 4pm to 6pm without exception.

Entry forms are available at the MVA office located in on Beach Road in San Jose or on the MVA official website Event Calendar at www.mymarianas.com. For more information contact Ed Diaz at the MVA at 664-3210 or through email at ediaz@mymarianas.com. (MVA)



BOYS U18 MP United 6, Paire 1

In the first boys U18 match, also at the Oleai pitch, MP United stretched its winning run to five after crushing Paire, 6-1.

Tanapon Uns and Jahn Joyner tallied two goals each in the one-sided match, while Jireh Yobech and Brian Lee contributed one apiece. Ethan Dickenson earned the lone goal for Paire.

Joyner opened the scoring for MP United with his goal in the third minute, while Yobech made it to the board one minute before the first half ended. Uns

then widened the gap with his two straight goals (58th and 70th), while Joyner made it a 5-0 lead with his second goal in the 73rd. Finally, Paire broke its silence with Dickinson's goal in the 80th, but MP United still had the last say off Lee's shot two minutes before the match concluded.

In the other boys U18 tiff, Tan Holdings also had an easy victory against Matansa, 8-0.

Sean Perez had a hat-trick for Tan Holdings, while Junsik Kim, Joshua Galario, and Yoshi Mafnas added one goal apiece.

board in the last two.

While it took two more innings for the first game to wrap up, the second one ended earlier, as the Red Sox capitalized on the erratic defense of the Lions to earn the win via 10-run mercy rule.

The Red Sox got nine runs off the Lions' miscues to turn a tied game after the first inning, 1-1, to a 13-run win. The Lions made it to the board first off a wild pitch and error from starting pitcher Craig Aguon, while the Red Sox drew an RBI double from Jerald Cabrera, who also stole home at the bottom of the first.

Aguon, who quickly recovered from a bad start after get-

ting back-to-back strikeouts in the first inning, booted out the Lions' first three batters in the second and went on to notch five more strikeouts in the last three innings to lift the Red Sox to the early win. Aguon allowed only three hits.

While the Lions struggled against Aguon, the Red Sox's batters were on a zone in the last three innings. Jhace Palacios, who was hit by a pitch in his first at bat, went 3-for-3 in the last three and also bagged two RBIs and one run. Cabrera also had two RBIs on a 3-for-4 performance at the plate and tallied two runs. The Braves recorded five runs in the second and four each in the third and fourth.

Southeast Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Toronto	35	27	.565	—
Brooklyn	32	30	.516	3
New York	25	40	.385	11½
Boston	22	41	.349	13½
Philadelphia	15	48	.238	20½

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
x-Miami	44	17	.721	—
Washington	33	30	.524	12
Charlotte	30	34	.469	15½
Atlanta	27	35	.435	17½
Orlando	19	46	.292	27

Western Conference

	W	L	Pct	GB
x-Indiana	46	17	.730	—
Chicago	35	28	.556	11
Detroit	24	39	.381	22
Cleveland	24	40	.375	22½
Milwaukee	13	50	.206	33

Northwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Oklahoma City	46	17	.730	—
Portland	42	21	.667	4
Minnesota	31	31	.500	14½
Denver	27	36	.429	19
Utah	22	42	.344	24½

Pacific Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
L.A. Clippers	45	20	.692	—
Golden State	40	24	.625	4½
Phoenix	36	27	.571	8
Sacramento	22	41	.349	22
L.A. Lakers	22	42	.344	22½

x-clinched playoff spot

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MISO Girls Volleyball League Finals

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO



Marianas High School players and coach Somia Quan, standing right, flash the No. 1 sign after beating Grace Christian Academy in the finals of the 2013-2014 MISO Girls Volleyball League last Saturday at the MHS Gymnasium.



Grace Christian Academy players and coach Jen Douglas, left, pose for a team photo.



Grace Christian Academy and Marianas High School players meet at center court after the three-set finale.



Marianas High School fans celebrate a point.



Grace Christian Academy supporters rejoice after winning the first set.



Marianas High School's Negahr Rastgui tips the ball.



Marianas High School's Shana Flores serves.



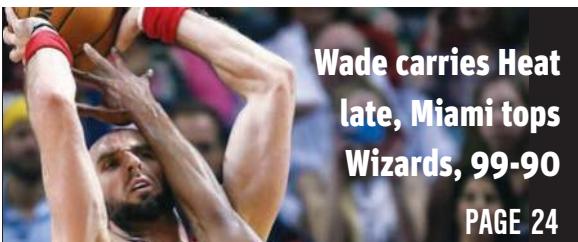
Marianas High School's Sabrina Pangilinan goes for a spike.



Umpire Jacoby Winkfield watches the action at the net.



Grace Christian Academy's Zena Demapan goes for a return.



Wade carries Heat
late, Miami tops
Wizards, 99-90

PAGE 24

Saipan Tribune Sports

Pistorius vomits
during graphic
testimony

PAGE 25

28 WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12, 2014

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Matansa whips Kanoa in girls U15



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
A Matansa FC defender nudges a Kanoa FC player as they battle for the ball at the sideline during the second half of their game in the girls U15 division of the NMIFA youth league last Saturday at the Hopwood Junior High School Field.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Matansa Football Club pummeled Kanoa FC, 7-0, in the girls U15 division of the 2014 NMIFA Spring Youth Football League last Saturday at the Hopwood Junior High School Field.

Three Matansa players scored two goals apiece to power the squad to the easy win. Barbara Peteru made twin goals and Lyka Sally and Maile Aldrich duplicated her feat to demolish Kanoa FC. Jezreelyn Bulak-lak nailed the other goal for Matansa, breaking the ice in the opening 10 minutes of the first half. Sally drilled the second goal, while Peteru and Aldrich canned the last two to give Matansa a 4-0 halftime advantage. Kanoa FC failed to counter

attack in the second half, while Sally, Aldrich, and Peteru lit up the board anew to complete the lopsided win.

In two other games last Saturday, Shirley's FC edged Tan Holdings, 2-1, while MP United and Paire had a draw, 2-2.

Diana Maniacop logged the winning goal for Shirley's FC, as she scored in the 62nd minute. Earlier in the 48th minute, De Jana Muna found the back of

See MATANSA on Page 26

7 make grade in BergerMan



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Joshua Berger gestures to the participants before starting the swim leg of the BergerMan Triathlon last Saturday at PauPau Beach.

Braves, Red Sox win in Senior League



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The Braves and the Red Sox recorded contrasting victories in the Senior League division of the 2014 Saipan Little League Baseball last Saturday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

In the first game, the Braves needed two extra innings to thwart the JPO Enforcers, 7-6, while in the second match, the Red Sox finished off the Lions after only four and a half innings, 15-2. The Red Sox remained undefeated in six games to keep the lead in the

See BRAVES on Page 26

A Red Sox runner slides back to second base during the bottom of the fourth inning of their game against the Lions in the Senior League of the 2014 Saipan Little League Baseball last Saturday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

The list includes Tyce Miser, Butch Sublemente, and Peter Prestley in the men's division, and women's category's Kimiko McKagan, Kaiti Mattos, Yurie L'orange, and Amy Sletten. The three male triathletes completed the long distance course that finished and ended at Paupau under the three-hour mark, while McKagan also broke the under three-hour barrier to lead the three other qualifi-

ers. Brad Ruszala, who organized the Joshua Berger-sponsored BergerMan, said he will work on other qualifying tournaments and training opportunities before selecting the three male and female representatives of Tri Saipan to the 2014 Pacific Triathlon Championships that will be held in Guam on June 21 and 22. The chosen ones will have an all-expense paid trip to Guam, while other triathletes are also welcome to join the competition but they will have to pay for their trips.

"In addition to the three men and women who will make the team, Saipan will be represented

See 7 MAKE on Page 26

